

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 11, No.6

Jun 2015

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

Base Meeting:

BOD: 28 May, 1800

Membership: 11 Jun, 1900

Location:

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 26

Low Country Home

99 Wisteria Rd.



Base Commander	<u>Rick Wise</u>	843.875.5559
Vice Commander	<u>Rick Sparger</u>	843.553.5594
Secretary	<u>Mike Ciesielko</u>	843.324.0011
Treasurer	<u>Mike Welch</u>	843.300.9022

Chief of the Boat	<u>Ken Hutchison</u>	843.553.0935
Veterans Affairs	<u>Ken Curtis</u>	843.797.1268
Membership	<u>Ed Stank</u>	843.553.5594
Scholarship	<u>George Scharf</u>	843.873.3318
Storekeeper	<u>Ron Chambers</u>	843.821.2268
Historian	<u>George Scharf</u>	843.873.3318
Public Affairs	<u>Tom Clark</u>	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
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Submarines Lost During the Month of June

USS HERRING (SS-233) USS R-12 (SS-89)	June 1, 1944 – 8th war patrol June 12, 1943 – practice torpedo	LOST WITH ALL HANDS - 83 SOULS approach near Key West FL LOST WITH 42 SOULS - 21 SURVIVORS
USS GOLET (SS-361) USS BONEFISH (SS-223) USS S-27 (SS-132) USS O-9 (SS-70)	June 14, 1944 – 2nd war patrol June 18, 1945 – 8th war patrol June 19, 1942 – grounded off Amchitka Island Alaska June 20, 1941 – foundered off Isle of Shoals NH	LOST WITH ALL HANDS - 82 SOULS LOST WITH ALL HANDS - 85 SOULS NO LOSS OF LIFE LOST WITH ALL HANDS - 34 SOULS LOST WITH ALL HANDS - 78 SOULS
USS RUNNER (SS-275)	June 30, 1943 – 3rd war patrol	

SEVEN Boats and 404 Men Lost

Chaplain's Corner—The Voice Inside Your Head

I always do my best to have a clear conscience toward God and Men. Acts 24:16 (HCSB)

Your conscience is an early-warning system designed to keep you out of trouble. When you're about to do something that you know is wrong, a little voice inside your head has a way of speaking up. If you listen to that voice, you'll be okay; if you ignore it, you're asking for headaches or heart-breaks, or both.

Whenever you're about to make an important decision, you should listen carefully to the quiet voice inside. Sometimes, of course, it's tempting to do otherwise. From time to time, you'll be tempted to abandon your better judgment by ignoring your conscience. But remember: a conscience is a terrible thing to waste. So instead of ignoring that quiet little voice, pay careful attention to it. If you do, your conscience will lead you in the right direction---in fact, it's trying to lead you right now. So listen . . . and learn.

--A Prayer for Today--

Dear God, You've given me a conscience that tells me right from wrong. Let me trust my conscience, and let me live according to Your teachings, not just for today, but forever. Amen.

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the May 2015 meeting was 99.

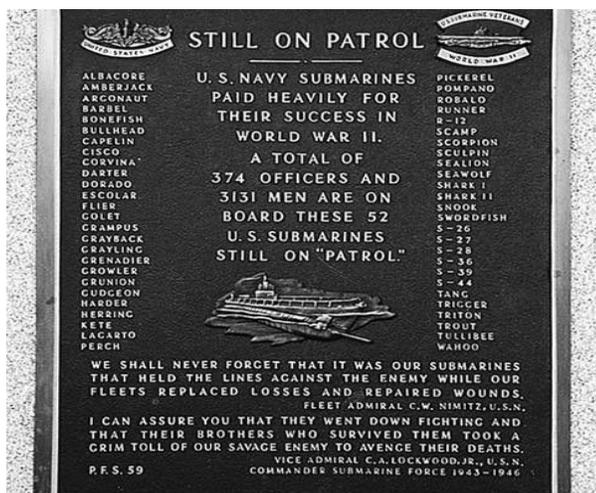
Opening Ceremonies: The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Ed Stank. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1900. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and Tolling of the Boats lost in May was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Vice-Commander Rick Sparger. Ed welcomed the members and guests to the meeting. Introduction of Poet Laureate: Ed Introduced Jack Smith they met at the H.L. Hunley Memorial ceremony. Ed brought the women back in so they could listen to Jack. He gave a splendid performance.

Introductions: The following was a new attendee to Charleston Base meetings: **RM1(SS) Tim Clutters, Qual Boat: USS Henry Clay SSBN 625; MMCS (SS) James (OX) Oxendine, Qual Boat USS Maryland SSBN 738; EMC (SS) James J. Fortier, Qual Boat Patrick Henry SSBN 599, MMCM (SS) Robert Williams USS Threadfin SS-410; MTC (SS) Dave Szeszko. Qual Boat USS Will Rogers SSBN 659.**

Secretary: Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the April meeting minutes had published in the newsletter and on the base website. Butch Bryar made a motion to approve the April meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Ken Hutchison and carried on a voice vote.

Treasurer: Base Treasurer Steve Morawiec gave a report on the Charleston Base finances. The base financial report is now located as a password protected file on the base website under Documents and Resources. **Membership:** Ed is our new Membership Chairman and he reported we now have 323 members. If you change your e-mail address please let the base know. You can send the information to the Membership Chairman, the COB, the Chaplain or the Base Secretary and they will make sure the changes are made.

Vice-Commander/Special Events: Base Vice-Commander Rick Sparger thanked the base for returning the cooler that was missing and asked everyone to



Received via e-mail from Lt. Kevin Fink, USN, (SS) (Ret.)

clean out the coolers before returning them. Rick asked for help Saturday morning with loading and transporting materials to the picnic. Thursday 21 May the FRA is having their elections and the Vice Commander encouraged us that are FRA members to attend. Rick thanked everyone who made his job as COB easier. **Chaplain and Webmaster:** Base Chaplain and Webmaster Nick Nichols gave the report for Submarines Lost as listed in last month's newsletter.

Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman, Submarines, John David Hill Jr., United States Navy World War II Veteran Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – 10 May.

Received the following card: Dear Subvets, thank you so much for the loving and honorable way you all gave to Glenn's passing. It reflected to all of us the commitment you have for one another. Respectfully, Joyce Fleming □ **HMCS(SS) Doc Hill** departed on Eternal Patrol March 23rd. His memorial service was held yesterday with 30 of our base members attending. The flag detail was outstanding. □ Congratulations to **Jack & Joyce Harden and Ken & Judy Hutchison** as they have celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary! □ **Anna Emerson**, Mike's wife, had ankle surgery today and it went very well. She is staying overnight at the hospital and will be home tomorrow. □ **Rich Koehler** has let the COB know he is not doing well. He was at Trident and had surgery this pass Monday, however he is with us tonight. He was diagnosed last year with bladder cancer. □ **Ray Bryant** has let us know he is under the weather and won't make the meeting. □ **Delores Pease**, Ray's wife, has been diagnosed with bladder cancer. □ **Buck Owens** had a stent put in a couple of weekends ago but is here tonight. He knew he had a problem, went to the ER, and got himself home. Says he feels better than before now that the stent is allowing better blood flow, but the back ache and shoulder pains that seem go with age are not relenting. □ **Lynn Cousino**, Mike's wife, is undergoing aggressive treatment for liver cancer. She is keeping a very positive attitude through everything that is happening. □ **Mike Knaub's** ankle continues to give him problems. Ed reported that Mike has three options at this point: 1) get his A1C for diabetes under control and have more surgery, 2) have the ankle fused, or 3) he might lose the foot. □ **Abe Jenkins** would like to see some visitors. When you go he may or may not know you were there. Mike Emerson, Theron Irving and Roger Gibson visited him 2 days in a row...first visit he was good but the second day was not so good. □ **Connie Chinn** fell in her yard as she tried to get away from a copperhead. She fractured both bones in her wrist and had to have pins and a plate put in. □ **Rich Alkire** will be having carotid surgery next Tuesday, May 19th.

SCP (Shipmate Contact Program) is still going well.

Please checkup on your shipmates and let them know you care about their wellbeing. I'm asking you 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. □ Make no reports unless you feel there's something I need to know about. 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.

BENEDICTION: Let us pray - Heavenly Father we are grateful to You for what we have been able to accomplish. We ask those things discussed tonight will move us forward as a base. Help us remember those who are unable to be present with us tonight. Place Your hand of healing upon the sick and wrap your arms of comfort around those who are grieving. And now Father, let us take a moment of silence to remember those who are where we all have been. We pray all of this in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

Newsletter: George Fuchs had nothing to Report.

Storekeeper / Election Coordinator: Since there was only a single nominee for the positions of Base Commander; Rick Wise and Base Treasurer; Mike Welch, and no member stood to run for those positions, Rick and Mike won by acclamation.

FRA: Larry Cox announced that the FRA / SUBVETS picnic is May 16 at Bushy Park. The menu Saturday afternoon is Chicken leg quarters, hamburgers and hot dogs and all the trimmings and is \$5 a head. Come out and enjoy a good picnic! Larry Cox reminded members that are FRA members that the Branch 269 elections at Thursday May 21st. He would like the support of the SUBVETS running for election. Scholarship Committee: Scholarship Committee Chairman George Scharf reported that the committee had received the applications and that the committee would meet after the base meeting to make their selection and send notifications out before the June base meeting. **Submarine Veterans of World War II:** George thanked everyone for coming to Doc Hills Funeral and especially thanked Nick Nichols for the wonderful service. George reported that the Veterans of WWII Luncheon will be held at the Golden Corral 18th June. Be there at 1100.

USS Clamagore Restoration and Maintenance Association: Director of Restoration and Maintenance Butch Bryar reported that we are talking to Excide about buying batteries on the boat. We are still waiting

to hear from the State Ways and Means committee to see if we are going to get any money. Hopefully we will hear something by 1 June.

Little David: Rick Wise reported that maintenance was done on May 1 & 2. The working party consisted of Ed Stank, Mike Emerson, Beatle Bailey, Dan Hunt, Dave Taylor and Rick Wise. Rick Wise read a thank you letter from the Berkley County Museum.]

Nuclear Historian: Rick Carlson conveyed the following story. Wasted My Money! While strolling round the harbor this morning about 7am, I noticed a character shouting "Death to Infidels" and suddenly he tripped and fell into the water. He was struggling to stay afloat because of all the explosives he was carrying. If he didn't get help he would surely drown. Being a responsible citizen, and abiding by the law of the land that requires you to help those in distress, I informed the Police, the Coast Guard, The immigration office and even the Fire Dept. It is now 11 a.m. The terrorist has drowned and none of the authorities have yet to respond. I'm starting to think I wasted four stamps.

The After Battery: Buddha reported that the after battery has a website. The meal is at 5pm. They have many card games and it's a very fun time if you have never been.

District Commander: District Commander was not present. Ed Stank informed everyone that he is running for District Commander. He asked all new elected officers to come forward after the meeting to be sworn in.

Chief of the Boat: Ken Hutchison ribbed the Vice commander about stealing all his thunder. The COB asked anyone that can help be at the FRA 0830 Saturday for help with the Picnic. Ken also recognized our WWII SUBVETS. The next event will be the Memorial Day Service on May 26 at 1030. It will be held at Summerville Cemetery, also known as Parks Cemetery, on US 17A in Summerville, SC. Muster time is 1000. The COB will be sending out more information later. Base Commander: Ed thanked all the SUBVET officers who helped him during his tenure as base commander.

Old Business: The By Law Changes have been signed out as approved by the base. The others that need to be revised will be done so after Rick assumes the Commander duties. The Picnic has been gone over. The Amberjack Memorial service was cancelled this year.

New Business: A. The ballots for District Commander were distributed and collected. Ed Stank is running for District Commander. B. James Graham informed us that there were changes to CPR by the American Heart Association. If someone has a heart attack you no longer breathe for them you immediately start chest compressions. C. Rick Wise informed the base the motion to allocate up to \$4000.00 from the investment fund for a new float trailer is void and made a motion that an

amount up to \$1500.00 be allocated from the investment fund to get the current float ready for the parade season. This motion will expire after 6 months. Ken Hutchison seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote. Good of the Order: Gary Williams informed us that members that served in the Korean War are eligible for the Korean peace medal. Stonewall Jackson reunion is in San Antonio TX in September. Victory House leaving Tuesday 10am at VFW on Bellwright road. Base Commander Ed Stank administered the oath of office to the base elected officers.

Depth Charge: The depth charge was won by Jim Higgins.

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

Up-Coming Events for USSVICB

Tuesday, 9 June, 4-6pm, Heroes Haven, Holiday Inn Charleston– Mt. Pleasant, 250 Johnnie Dodds Blvd. Mt. Pleasant, SC. RSVP to Cheryl Tobias at 843.416.3106, NLT 2 June. \$15pp or \$25per couple. Appetizers & Beverages provided. More info at: www.heroes-haven.us.

Subvet Wives Club

The SubVets Wives held their regular luncheon at Logan's Restaurant in Azalea Square on 20 May. Next month's luncheon will be held at Newk's, also in Azalea Square in Summerville.

The CSS David and the USSVI Charleston Base Little David Project

The CSS David was a low-profile steam-powered spar torpedo boat used in the defense of Charleston, SC during Civil War (AKA the War Between the States, the War of Northern Aggression and the Late Unpleasantness). It attacked and damaged the USS New Ironsides on October 5, 1863. The USS New Ironsides was a first-line Union iron-clad warship and although the CSS David failed to sink it the ship was replaced in the blockade.

The CSS David also has a relationship with the Confederate Submarine, the H. L. Hunley. The David was used to tow the Hunley out into Charleston Harbor for the submarines initial Trials. Also, after of the damage on the USS New Ironsides, Union ships in the first line of the blockade were protected by timbers and chains on the Charleston side of the ships. This prevented most of the torpedo blast from reaching the ship's hull, limiting the damage. Because of this, the Hunley had to choose a target that was in the second line of the blockade.

Many David-type torpedo boats were built as well as a 160-foot version that was to be used to move goods and supplies from the Confederate ports to ships waiting beyond the blockade. This version did not have a spar torpedo.

The students and staff of Trident Technical College (then BerChaDor Tech) built a replica in 1970 for the South Carolina Tricentennial.

It was overhauled in 2004 by the United States Submarine Veterans Incorporated, Charleston Base (USSVICB). The overhaul took six months and several thousand man-hours to complete. USSVICB is responsible for its upkeep.

Description of work done by Charleston Base.

- About 75% of the bottom was removed and new sections rolled and welded in.
- Entire hull was sandblasted and painted, inside and out.
- Most of hull was sheathed in wood to more resemble the actual construction.
- A new torpedo was manufactured.
- A new cockpit was manufactured with the ability to install a cover to keep rain out.

Charleston Base has a working party each spring to maintain the replica. The Berkeley Museum pays for materials. This year's maintenance was completed on May 2.



USSVICB/FRA #269 Joint Picnic

It was a beautiful Saturday afternoon in May at the Bushy Park Picnic Grounds and the weather could not have been more ideal for the first joint SubVet/FRA picnic, with temper-



atures in the low 80s and a wonderful breeze. The charcoal grills were fired up with brats, hamburgers, hotdogs and barbecued chicken, provided by the SubVets and FRA and supplemented with side dishes brought in by the participating families, promising to provide a fantastic feast for all who attended. Judging by all the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th helpings, it was apparent that the food was delicious!



USSVICB Participates in Memorial Day Ceremony.

On Monday, 25 May Our SubVets base personnel and several of our wives and families participated in the Annual Memorial Day Ceremony at Summerville Memorial Cemetery. There were three guest speakers, the most notable being our own Sen. Tim Scott, a native of North Charleston and Stall High School Graduate; as well as State Senator Sean Bennett, both of whom gave excellent, patriotic speeches on the contributions of our fallen heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. State Sen. Bennett thanked us for placing him right after Sen. Scott in the order of guest speakers. Sen. Scott was certainly a very hard performance to follow, but Bennett not only gave us a good laugh, he also gave a wonderful speech.

FRA News

Veterans Appeals Court Rules in Favor of “Blue Water” Claim

The Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims has ruled that Navy veterans who served aboard ships in the harbors of Vietnam more than 40 years ago should not be arbitrarily excluded from Agent Orange claims—a significant step forward for these veterans.

Former Navy seaman Robert Gray has been denied multiple disability claims by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) based on the fact that he was aboard a ship—not on land—during the Vietnam War, when the herbicide Agent Orange was liberally sprayed by American forces to remove foliage and eliminate enemy cover. The chemical was later found to cause a myriad of health problems for service members who were exposed, but the federal government has denied disability claims to U.S. Navy sailors under the argument that the seamen were offshore and were not directly exposed.

FRA-supported proposals (HR 969/S. 681), introduced in both the House and Senate, which are pending in Congress, would give recognition to Navy personnel exposure to Agent Orange through ships' water systems. Runoff containing the herbicide flowed into Da Nang harbor and other offshore waterways, infiltrating water systems on naval vessels.

Military Veterans Advocacy (MVA), a veteran's rights organization based in Louisiana, has long sought recognition for these conditions and filed an amicus brief in this case.

“This is an important step forward in restoring the benefits to those veterans who served offshore,” said retired Navy Commander John B. Wells, executive director of MVA. “When the VA stripped benefits from 174,000 Navy veterans, they left these veterans without health care and their families destitute. The VA now has a chance to restore the presumption of exposure to veterans who served aboard ships anchored in Da Nang and other harbors of Vietnam.”

The VA will probably appeal this decision, and Congress has not yet acted on Agent Orange/Blue Water legislation. FRA staff recently met with House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) staff to discuss the status of Agent Orange legislation (H.R. 969) and to request a HVAC hearing on this issue.

FRA has worked closely with MVA in the legislative arena, and members are urged to use the FRA Action Center (action.fra.org/action-center) to ask their legislators to support Agent Orange/Blue Water Navy proposals (H.R. 969/S. 681).

DFAS Email Address Changing

From time to time, DFAS sends out emails that contain important information pertaining to your pay account. These are called “SmartDocs” emails because of the email address used as the sender. The sending email address is changing on 16 May 2015. If you have spam controls set up on your email system, you should add the new address to your permitted list so that you don’t miss anything. The new sender email address is DFAS-SmartDocs@mail.mil. This address is only used to send out bulk emails—please do not send anything important to the address as you will not receive a response.

Read more: <http://paycheck-chronicles.military.com/2015/04/16/news-from-dfas/#ixzz3XsngylDz>.

TRICARE: Easy Access to Mental Health

The DHA wants to ensure that beneficiaries know how easy it is to access to TRICARE’s mental health services. Counseling, psychotherapy and family therapy are covered benefits under TRICARE. The first eight appointments with a TRICARE-authorized provider do not require a Primary Care Manager (PCM) referral; just your military identification card. Prime beneficiaries must see in-network providers, not just TRICARE-authorized providers, or point of service (POS) charges will apply. TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra beneficiaries may see any TRICARE-authorized provider, but will minimize out-of-pocket costs by visiting network providers (under TRICARE Extra). Active duty service members require prior authorization for civilian non-emergency care. For more information about TRICARE mental health services, go to: www.tricare.mil/mentalhealthBeing-Targeted-by-Call-Centers-and-Others.

Underseas Warfare News

Navy Runs Tests on Lint, Clears Cotton Coveralls for Subs

Michael Melia, Associated Press, May 1

As the US Navy prepared to roll out cotton, flame-resistant coveralls for submarine sailors, it needed first to assess a possible threat: There was concern the boats’ ventilation systems could be clogged by lint.

After testing them out aboard the USS Montpelier, a Virginia-based attack submarine, the Navy gave the all-clear for skippers to begin handing out the new outfits, which replace the cotton-polyester coveralls sailors have been wearing during deployments.

“We did the testing and proved it had very little if any impact,” Commander Tommy Crosby, a submarine force spokesman, said Thursday. “We had to make sure that any of the chemicals that were used in the coveralls, along with the lint and everything else, would not impact an enclosed system.”

The Navy began issuing the new coveralls to aviation and surface-fleet sailors early last year to help reduce the risks from fires on ships, but the submarine force held off until it could assess the impact on filters and other parts of the system that provides the crew’s air for breathing. All submarine crews now have been directed to make the switch by the end of this year.

The all-cotton coveralls, which are not to be worn on shore because they are not official uniforms, are still blue, with khaki belts for officers and chief petty officers and black belts for other enlisted sailors.

Unit and flag patches are forbidden to protect against degradation of the flame-retardant properties, according to the Navy, but units can adopt leather or embroidered name tags.

The USS Virginia, a submarine based in Groton, Conn., will be the first in the Atlantic to receive the new coveralls after the USS Montpelier, said Navy Captain Jim Lowther, the supply officer for the Atlantic submarine force.

“The sailors appreciate having coveralls that give them an extra layer of protection,” Lowther said.

NATO Allies, Sweden Begin Sub-Hunting Exercise

Steven Beardsley, Stars and Stripes, May 4

BERGEN, Norway — Naval forces from 11 NATO nations and Sweden have gathered here to practice detecting and hunting submarines, in an annual exercise whose real-world relevance has grown in the past

year.

Dubbed Dynamic Mongoose, the training pits submarines from Germany, the U.S., Sweden and Norway against surface ships employing a suite of sonar, sensors and maritime air patrols.

The two-week exercise follows recent reports of foreign vessels in the territorial waters of several European nations, including an incident off Finland's coast last week and the spotting of a mystery vessel off Sweden last year. Although governments have not publicly blamed any country, they have left little doubt about their suspicion of Russia.

Naval officers speaking to reporters Sunday said the exercise isn't intended to send a message to any particular country.

"Obviously we're aware of the incidents that have happened in some of our partner nations' waters," said Rear Adm. Brad Williamson, who commands the Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 ships participating in the exercise. "I think, for us, what it does is, it focuses our efforts and our training here."

Among the exercise's challenges is an unfamiliar North Sea environment, where cold temperatures and diversity of underground structures and wildlife will affect how submarines maneuver and are detected.

Participant ships work slowly at first, practicing and mastering certain tactics before beginning plugging into drawn-out scenarios, said Williamson. One focus may be protecting an oil tanker or supply ship that might make for an appealing torpedo target.

At their disposal will be maritime air patrols from Norway's Stavanger Air Base to the south and helicopters embarked aboard their ships, as well as sonar arrays towed behind their vessels.

NATO's research vessel NRV Alliance will participate in the exercise for the first time, making the journey from its port in La Spezia, Italy, to test unmanned underwater vessels and sensor buoys, meant to provide a fixed sonar signal.

New advances are aiding both sides in an old game of cat-and-mouse, said Kevin LePage, a program manager at NATO's Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation. "It's been a technology race," LePage said. "The sensors are getting better. The submarines are getting better."

For Cmdr. Kai Nickelsdorf and his crew aboard the German attack submarine U-33, their advantage will be their knowledge of the underwater range. They are

vulnerable when they rise to periscope depths, however.

The art of hunting submarines "is the most difficult task in all of naval and NATO tasks," Nickelsdorf said.

Added to that difficulty is the complex nature of NATO operations, which rely on forces from different nations, cultures and languages to work on a common plain. Williamson, the commander of the naval group, said the only way to do it is in person.

"I'm going up against a thinking opponent who's going to do his best obviously to carry the day from his side," he said. "That kind of interaction between the submarine forces and the surface forces in these kinds of waters is really what's the huge benefit of this exercise."

NATO Starts Anti Submarine Exercise In North Sea As Tension With Russia Rise *Balazs Koranyi, Reuters, May 4*

ABOARD THE USS VICKSBURG, NORTH SEA – NATO launched one of its biggest-ever anti-submarine exercises in the North Sea on Monday, inviting non-member Sweden for the first time, amid increasing tensions between Russia and its northern neighbors.

More than a dozen vessels from 11 countries are participating in the "Dynamic Mongoose" exercise. NATO will simulate detecting and attacking submarines in one of the most hostile seas, with rugged but shallow underwater canyons, rapid currents and unusually high sound pollution from freshwater pouring in from Norway's fjords.

Tensions have run high since Russia annexed part of Ukraine last year, with the three small Baltic states, who also rely on the Nordics for defense, fearing they may be next as they are home to big Russian minorities.

Finland detected an unidentified submarine along its coast last week, firing depth charges at the vessel, while NATO-member Latvia, a former Soviet state, last month said it detected a Russian submarine near its waters. Russian aircraft have also repeatedly approached and even violated Nordic and Baltic airspace in recent months, challenging air defenses and triggering allied responses.

"Russia has a right to be at sea, just as we do," Rear Admiral Brad Williamson, the commander of the exercise said. "But the incidents we have seen are not in line with international regulations ... and that's been the

cause of concern." "This is not a response to that ... but provides relevance to the exercise," Williamson said on board the USS Vicksburg, the lead vessel in the exercise.

Nordic defense ministers issued a strongly worded condemnation of Russia last month, calling it the biggest threat to security, prompting Russia to say that Finland's and Sweden's closer ties with NATO were of "special concern." "The Russians have increased their activity a lot and so have we," said Kai Nickelsdorf, the commander of Germany's U33 submarine, which is playing the role of an enemy in the exercise. The four submarines involved, including a Swedish one, will be tasked to approach and target the ships undetected, simulating an attack on surface ships.

Although Norway shares a long maritime border with Russia in the Arctic, it played down the recent increase in activity. "We saw a drop in activity level a few years ago and it's now back to where it was, the normal level," Ole Morten Sandqvist, the commander of the Norwegian fleet said. "The number of ships, aircraft in the air and so forth ... has become more frequent than it used to be."

Congress Adds \$60 Million To Navy Submarine Upgrades *Kris Osborn, Defensetech.org, May 6*

Lawmakers have added \$60 million toward submarine upgrades to include unmanned aerial vehicles, torpedo enhancements and combat systems modernization.

The funding initiative, which moved the \$60 million from Navy destroyer modernization over to submarine research and development, was put in place during the 2016 defense bill mark up by Rep. Randy Forbes, R-Va., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee's Seapower and Projection Forces subcommittee.

"The undersea domain has been an area of historical U.S. advantage, from World War II to the Cold War. To ensure our dominance in the years ahead, we must begin investing in technologies that hold the potential to sustain American undersea power. As our potential competitors make significant investments in the undersea realm, the U.S. must continue researching and developing the undersea technologies of the future," Forbes said.

The R&D submarine funding is specifically earmarked for particular projects, including the development and deployment of undersea underwater and aerial unmanned vehicles.

One of the programs is called Fleet Modular

Autonomous Unmanned Vehicle – a rapid development program to provide the Navy with the capability to safely ship, stow, and deploy an autonomous undersea vehicle with lithium batteries from a submarine torpedo tube. This technology also provides the capability to download mission data without physically docking to the submarine, Congressional sources said.

In addition, the dollars are allocated toward engineering submarine-launched Unmanned Aerial Systems also designed to deploy from a submarine torpedo tube for over-the-horizon targeting.

Additional funding for this effort will accelerate the development of a militarized antenna as well as an electronic warfare and cyber payload for the platform.

About \$5.5 million of the funding is slated for hardware and software upgrades to the MK48 Heavy-weight Torpedo weapons system. Additional torpedo upgrades include an initiative called the Torpedo Advanced Processor Build designed to improve computer processing speeds for the weapon and improve its probability of destroying targets. These improvements impact the weapon's navigation system, target motion analysis and improved payload ballistics, Congressional officials explained.

Other areas of undersea innovation specified by the funding initiative are referred to as submarine combat and weapons control modernization efforts. This program will develop commercial off-the-shelf based software and hardware upgrades to integrate improved weapons control technologies for several submarine classes. This includes a technology which enables a torpedo to prepare to fire in less than one minute.

Called "attack in a minute," this new technology hinges upon new software prototypes and designs, officials explained.

The stepped up funding for submarine technology is not surprising in light of the increased attention to the pace of global undersea modernization. Russia and China, in particular, are known to be making great strides when it comes to undersea technologies.

A recent study said emerging submarine detection technologies, computer processing power and platforms such as underwater drones could quickly erode the U.S. military's global undersea dominance and ability to operate in high-threat areas such as locations near enemy coastlines.

The U.S. military relies upon submarines and undersea technological superiority for critical underwater intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance mis-

sions, which place assets near the surface fleet or coastline of a potential adversary.

In coming years, the technological margin of difference separating the U.S from potential rivals is expected to get much smaller, requiring the U.S. to rethink the role of manned submarines and prioritize innovation in the realm of undersea warfare, according to a January report by the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments titled "The Emerging Era in Undersea Warfare."

Unlike the sub from the song, however, the U.S. Navy's Large Displacement Unmanned Undersea Vehicle, or "LDUUV," is filled not with mop-topped British pop stars, but with electronic circuitry. LDUUV, you see, is a remote control, or RC, submarine.

LDUUV spells what?

The Navy's been working on building this RC submarine for more than two years now (and we've been tracking it all the way). Its mission, in a nutshell, is to build a large, robotic submarine capable of running extended underwater tours of duty, without crew, and without any physical connection to a larger, manned boat. Ultimately, the Navy expects to arm this RC submarine with torpedoes, missiles, and even other, smaller robots that it can launch into air and sea (i.e., drones).

LDUUV's small size and ability to operate on its own will significantly expand the U.S. Navy's reach. According to the Office of Naval Research, the RC submarine can be loaded aboard a littoral combat ship, a frigate, or even a (manned) submarine -- then deployed at sea. If successful, LDUUV should greatly expand the zone that a single warship can occupy, performing many of the same combat, search and rescue, surveillance, and minesweeping missions that today require manned warships.

If they build it, the Navy will come

Several companies are involved in the effort to get LDUUV operational by its planned 2020 introduction into the fleet. Among them, FuelCell Energy (NASDAQ: FCEL) has been hired to test a 1,800 kWh solid oxide fuel cell for LDUUV. United Technologies (NYSE: UTX) has been separately hired to develop a proton exchange membrane fuel cell. In each case, the objective is to give the RC submarine quiet electric power without the need for a nuclear power plant (which is expensive) or diesel fuel (which requires a sub to surface for air frequently).

As for the companies that will build the actual submarine, these remain to be determined. One of America's premier builders of nuclear attack subma-

rines, General Dynamics (NYSE: GD) , has a project called "Knifefish" in the works, which may be aimed at winning an LDUUV contract.

We also know that Boeing (NYSE: BA) thinks its five-ton Echo Ranger autonomous underwater vehicle is right for the job. In fact, Boeing's claimed endurance for Echo Ranger, "70 days," mirrors the initial endurance target the Navy has set for its own RC submarine. (So far, the Navy admits LDUUV can only operate for about a month at a time. Office of Naval Research head Rear Admiral Winter, however, says that ultimately he wants LDUUV to operate on its own for "weeks, months, years.")

Underwater robotics specialist Oceaneering International (NYSE: OII) is reportedly helping Boeing work out the kinks on Echo Ranger. In the meantime, Norway's Kongsberg Maritime is supplying the Navy with REMUS 600 subs for testing out the LDUUV concept.

But honestly, at this point, it's anyone's guess who will end up building LDUUV. If you're an investor in the defense industry, it's too early to place bets on a winner.

What we can tell you is that if RC submarines become a mainstay of the U.S. Navy in years to come, that's likely to hurt prospects for General Dynamics and for its primary manned-submarine-building competitor, Huntington Ingalls (NYSE: HII) . To secure their place in the Navy of the future, one or both of those companies will want to win a piece of whatever LDUUV contracts ultimately emerge over the next five years.

Stay tuned.

France Offers Subs, Cruise Missiles To Poland *Jaroslav Adamowski, Def. News, May 11*

Following an announcement by Tomasz Siemoniak, Poland's deputy prime minister and defense minister, that the government aims to buy cruise missiles for three new submarines it plans to buy, France has offered to supply its Missile de Croisiere Naval should Warsaw opt for French-designed Scorpene subs.

Paris reportedly has authorized the procurement of the DCNS-built submarines and long-range MBDA missiles by Poland, local daily Gazeta Wyborcza reported. Under the plan, Poland could acquire 24 missiles for the three submarines.

According to the Polish Defense Ministry's Military Modernization Plan for the years 2013-2022,

two submarines are to be delivered to the Polish Navy by 2022 and a third by 2023.

In March, Siemoniak announced that Warsaw is in talks with Washington and Paris over the potential cruise missile deal that would be carried out as part of the Defense Ministry's Polish Claws program, designed to improve Poland's deterrence capacity.

One Poland reportedly will sign the cruise missile contract in 2017.

Poland's Ministry of Defense aims to launch the submarine tender in the fourth quarter of 2015, Deputy Defense Minister Maciej Jankowski said. The goal is to acquire the subs by 2023.

Park: N. Korea's Development Of Submarine Missile Serious Challenge

Staff, Yonhap News Agency, May 12

SEOUL – President Park Geun-hye Tuesday called North Korea's development of a submarine-launched ballistic missile a "serious challenge," warning "stern retaliation" against North Korea if provoked.

She also called on officials to maintain strong deterrence in cooperation with the United States over North Korea's provocative acts, presidential spokesman Min Kyung-Wook said in a written briefing.

About 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea as deterrence against North Korea.

Park made the comment in a rare meeting of top security officials to discuss North Korea's recent test-firing of a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM).

The participants included Park's security adviser, the spy chief, the defense minister, the foreign minister and South Korea's point man on North Korea, Min said.

The meeting – the first in a year – came three days after North Korea claimed that leader Kim Jong-un oversaw a successful underwater test-launching of a "strategic submarine ballistic missile."

"North Korea's development of a submarine-launched ballistic missile is a serious challenge that undermines stability on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia," Park said, noting Pyongyang is banned from any ballistic missile activity under U.N. resolutions.

Her comments came days after North Korea

threatened to fire without warning on South Korean naval vessels it accused of violating its territorial waters.

The inter-Korean border in the Yellow Sea has been the site of several bloody skirmishes between the navies of the two countries in the past, resulting in dozens of soldiers killed or wounded on both sides.

The North does not recognize the Yellow Sea border, commonly called the Northern Limit Line drawn unilaterally by the U.S.-led U.N. forces at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended in a cease-fire, not a permanent peace treaty.

South Korea has repeatedly vowed to strongly retaliate against any provocations to avenge the deaths of 50 South Koreans, mostly soldiers, who were killed in two separate attacks by North Korea in March and November of 2010.

Fishing Vessel Nets Russian Submarine

Stephen Castle, New York Times, May 11

After a day of fishing in the Irish Sea, Paul Murphy was about to head for home when his trawler, the Karen, suddenly shuddered to a halt.

A loud bang gave way to the sound of cables tensing. But when the Karen started moving again, it was being dragged backward, fast and at an angle.

"It was like the scene out of 'Jaws' when the boat took off — do you remember, the shark took the boat away?" said Mr. Murphy, the skipper, pointing to an electronic trace of the Karen's unnatural, disjointed path that afternoon last month.

"But multiply it by 100," he said. "It was just a bigger event."

An 80-ton trawler that normally catches prawn in its nets, the Karen this time seemed to have ensnared a submarine. And, with the British Navy and NATO both denying involvement, suspicion has fallen on Russia, which since the conflict in Ukraine has been testing the response times of the alliance in the air and at sea.

The episode, which nearly capsized the Karen, was the second of its kind in a month off the coast of Britain, and comes at a tense time in relations between London and Moscow.

In recent months, Britain has scrambled fighter jets several times to escort Russian bombers around its airspace. After one incident in February, Prime Minister David Cameron said he suspected "that the Russians are trying to make some sort of a point."

The Karen's close call coincided with a NATO exercise off the British coast called Joint Warrior. By coincidence or design, it also happened while the British Navy was distracted by the appearance of a Russian destroyer and two support ships in the English Channel.

The growing catalog of similar incidents — off Sweden, Finland, Norway and the Baltic States — has raised questions about Moscow's more assertive stance, and about the ability of Britain and other NATO countries to defend their skies and waters.

That uncertainty recalls an earlier age of Cold War intrigue, one that set Swedes on edge last year when a vessel suspected to be a Russian submarine was spotted off the Swedish coast. In an apparent echo, Finland's Navy dropped depth charges last month in waters near Helsinki as a warning to a suspected submarine.

In December, the Norwegian military said one of its warplanes had a near miss with a Russian fighter, and in November the European Leadership Network, a research institute that specializes in security issues, detailed almost 40 incidents in the preceding eight months involving Russian and Western militaries, many of which were in Europe.

Dick James, chief executive of the Northern Ireland Fish Producers Organization, said that the deep stretch of the Irish Sea where the Karen nearly capsized was so popular with submariners during the Cold War that it was nicknamed "submarine alley."

"It's worrying that we are harking back to the old times," he said. "I hope we are not going back to the 1980s."

Malcolm Chalmers, research director at the Royal United Services Institute, which specializes in defense, said the chances of such incidents were growing because more Russian submarines were now deployed out of Russian territorial waters than five years ago.

"Russia has increased its defense spending and is able to fund training and deployment activities at a level which it was not able to do in the past," Mr. Chalmers said. "The increased money is clearly a reflection of a broader strategic judgment of the Russian government and the military to turn to a more assertive foreign policy."

At the time of the incident, the Karen was in international waters, halfway between the coast of Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man.

"One of the purposes of Russian training activities will be to assess the response of potential opponents

and their own capability for gaming potential opponents," Mr. Chalmers said. "The Russians will send aircraft and ships into our area and see what we do. That cat and mouse game is something potential adversaries do all the time."

Britain's Marine Accident Investigation Branch has issued only a brief statement about the incident with the Karen, saying that "a decision about whether or not to investigate will be taken in due course."

The minister overseeing Northern Ireland's fisheries, Michelle O'Neil, said, "I remain firmly of the belief that we need an investigation and a full report as to the circumstances that led to the lives of local fishermen being put severely at risk."

Dave Benham, chief of public affairs for NATO Maritime Command, said that no submarine under its purview had been in the area. The alliance does not comment on deployments made by its member states when under their own command, he said.

Mr. James of the fish producers association said that under maritime rules, any submarine from a NATO nation should have surfaced to ensure the safety of the crew of the trawler.

His concerns are shared further north, in Scotland, by Angus MacLeod, skipper of another trawler, the Aquarius, who believes that his nets were caught by a submarine in March.

"When one net starts moving ahead of the boat, it is just not natural," said Mr. MacLeod, 46. "It was certainly a mechanical force; it was nothing natural. There were five crew, with 110 years of fishing experience between us, and none have experienced anything like this."

That incident took place about 11 miles north of the Isle of Lewis, and Mr. MacLeod said that he did not know or "particularly care" whose submarine was involved, but that it needed investigation.

"A fisherman's job is risky as it is without another hazard darting about the sea and putting fishermen's lives at risk," he said.

The Karen came closer to capsizing because when Mr. Murphy's crew tried to release wires connecting the ensnared nets to the trawler, one cable jammed.

Being dragged by one wire, the Karen was just seconds from sinking, he said, and his crew would not have had time to grab life jackets.

“I thought the game was up,” said Mr. Murphy, 46, who noted he has been at sea for 25 years and a skipper for 20. “I’ve been on a sinking ship, but you always have time to react to something like that.”

On this occasion, it was only luck that saved him, Mr. Murphy said, as the jammed cable finally broke under the strain.

“Whatever happened — whoever was looking after me above — the wire broke just like that,” he said. In a sudden, surreal moment, everything went quiet, he added, and the Karen was left “like a twig, floating in the ocean.”

Women To Serve On Dutch Submarines

Sam LaGrone, USNI News, May 13

“It is no longer of this time that we only admit men, we are just about the last country in the modern world that doesn’t do it.”

The Netherlands will join NATO allies the U.S., U.K., Germany, Norway, Canada and France that have all allowed women to serve onboard submarines in the last several years.

“Another reason for Defense to open the submarine service to women is a shortage of well qualified staff. Minister Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert said last year that she is in favor of this change,” reported NL Times this week.

The Dutch field four domestically built 2,800 ton Walrus-class submarines and have plans to replace the boats starting in 2025.

The 1990s-era boats have been used since 2010 as part of anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden.

Following the submarine policy change, the Dutch marines will be the only part of the Netherlands’ military that will remain male only.

Northrop Grumman's Voyage Management System Approved For Use On US Navy SSN And SSGN Nuclear Powered Submarines *Staff, PRNewswire, May 18*

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.-- The U.S. Navy has approved the use of Northrop Grumman Corporation's (NYSE: NOC) Voyage Management System (VMS), version 9.3, onboard SSN and SSGN nuclear powered submarines.

The VMS software package will be installed on 55 SSNs and four SSGNs operating globally from all U.S. Navy submarine homeports. Installations have

already begun and will be completed by the end of 2016.

Version 9.3 which supports polar operations has significantly increased rendering speeds, integrates seamlessly with combat radar and mission planning submarine systems and allows for real-time checking of installed charts.

“VMS 9.3 brings significant performance and usability improvements over earlier versions and I appreciate the hard work by Northrop Grumman to make this a great product,” said Capt. John D Zimmerman, Program Executive Office, Submarines (PEO SUB), PMS 425. “Submarine Force feedback on VMS 9.3 has been very positive and the boats are excited to have it installed.”

“These improvements in the VMS, along with a newly streamlined user interface, will help to dramatically improve the sailor's ability to navigate efficiently,” said Todd Leavitt, vice president, maritime systems, Northrop Grumman.

Northrop Grumman is a leading global security company providing innovative systems, products and solutions in unmanned systems, cyber, C4ISR, and logistics and modernization to government and commercial customers worldwide. Please visit www.northropgrumman.com for more information.

U.S. Navy Paying 'Whole Lot Of Attention' To Cyber Threats – Mabus

Andrea Shalal, Reuters, May 20

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Navy is working hard to improve the cyber security of its computer networks and weapon and communications systems, while bracing for potential attacks on power grids and fuel supplies, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said Wednesday.

Mabus said cyber warfare was a clear threat given Russia's use of cyber attacks before its physical invasions of Crimea and Georgia.

“We've got to pay a whole lot of attention to this,” Mabus said at an event sponsored by Defense One media group. “Cyber is in everything now. It's not just weapons systems. It's in every system because we are so networked.”

Mabus confirmed recent media reports that the Navy was looking at replacing IBM servers used for its Aegis combat system after International Business Machines Corp's \$2.1 billion sale of its server division to China's Lenovo Group Ltd last year.

“If there's a danger or potential danger with a

platform, you've got to take a look at that," he said.

U.S. military officials have become increasingly vocal about cyber espionage and attacks launched by China, Russia and other potential enemies. A Pentagon report last month said hackers associated with the Chinese government repeatedly targeted U.S. military networks last year seeking intelligence, but those tools could be used for offensive operations as well.

Mabus said the Navy was including more cyber threats in its war games and developing alternative energy sources and microgrids to ensure continued military operations in the event of an attack.

Vice Admiral Jan Tighe, commander of the Navy's Fleet Cyber Command and 10th Fleet, this month released a five-year strategic plan for dealing with cyber threats.

The Navy also launched a "CYBERSAFE" program aimed at ensuring the security of a small set of components and processes whose failure would harm critical capabilities, equipment and people.

Vice Admiral Ted Branch, deputy chief of naval operations for information dominance, said in a memo the program would be fully operational sometime next year.

The CYBERSPACE program office is due to brief Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jonathan Greenert next month about its work, to mirror similar "SUBSAFE" efforts to ensure safety on nuclear-powered submarines, a Navy spokesman said.

The effort will focus on ship safety, ship combat systems, networked combat and logistics systems.

Much like the submarine security system, it will rely on common standards set by an independent technical authority, acquisition standards, assessment by an independent security authority, and ultimately certification by a separate body.

NAVY DIVERS PREP FOR MISSION TO RAISE CIVIL WAR IRONCLAD

Lance M. Bacon, Navy Times, May 19

JOINT EXPEDITIONARY BASE LITTLE CREEK-FORT STORY, Va. – A team of Navy divers spent a week in mid-May preparing for an historic salvage of a Civil War ironclad scuttled more than 150 years ago.

Mobile Diving and Salvage Company 23 will deploy to Savannah, Georgia, on June 1 to free the Confederate States Ship Georgia from her watery grave. The

operation, expected to take just under two months, is to recover wreckage in five groupings; forward and aft armor casements; engine remnants such as boilers, shafts and propellers; four cannons; and live ordnance.

The number of projectiles is still under evaluation by on-site archaeologists, but most of them are believed to be lying atop the river bottom, said CWO3 Jason Potts, commander of MDSC-23. Explosive ordnance disposal divers from Mobile Unit 6 Detachment, Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia, will place the ordnance in handling fixtures specially designed for this mission, then turn it over to Marine Corps EOD technicians.

Potts' 20-man team will then move in for artifact recovery. A specialized rigging plan and purpose-built handling fixture was developed to safely salvage each artifact. The pieces are 35 to 50 feet deep, relatively shallow for a Navy diver, but some are half buried in the muddy riverbed. That means the "bottom work" will require underwater jetting, vacuum and pumping systems. Some sections of the ship will have to be segmented because they are simply too large to handle, Potts said. Divers will use a variety of hydraulic tools to separate then lift the armor for later preservation.

The divers will submerge in two-man teams for optimal safety and efficiency. One diver will tend umbilical and tool lines while the other works the site. Each team will remain underwater approximately 90 minutes.

That may sound like an easy day. Think again. The work is physically grueling. It takes roughly twice the energy to perform a task underwater as topside, and that is before you add up to 100 pounds of weights, a muddy working surface, and opposing currents. When tools and rigging are added to the mix, exertion levels quickly compound. The jetting nozzle alone kicks out 150 psi – enough to send a diver tumbling if not for the back thrust that holds him in position. Therefore, each team will dive a few times a week but never twice in one day.

The biggest challenge is the environment, said Potts, who has more than 15 years in the diving community. The wreckage is on the edge of a shipping channel (the salvage is needed to allow an expansion of that channel). That location means divers will deal with strong currents and ever-changing debris. Navy Meteorology and Oceanography will identify periods of slack water to maximize efficiency and safety.

"You're dealing with something that's been down there for 150 years; I can't imagine that any part will be easy," said Navy Diver 2nd Class Jonny Pounders.

There is no need for an underwater elevator in such depths, so tenders topside will control all vertical movements with "mandraulics." Once lowered, visibility will be zero. It is unlikely a diver will be able to see his hand even when pressed against his faceplate, so everything will be done by feel. If a diver needs a different or replacement tool, the diving supervisor will use the bubble plume to mark the diver's location (the bubbles are slightly behind the diver's actual location), then guide him to the drop spot.

This surface-supplied diving method is common for underwater salvage, but the target ship is anything but common. Despite the pressure inherent in such a high visibility mission (leaders at the highest levels are well aware of every step taken), the divers calmly proceeded through preparatory training with calm resolve. Indeed, Potts is confident the Navy, and the nation, has the right team to retrieve the historic artifacts.

"Their proficiency has really never been higher," he said of the team, which recently returned from a six-month deployment to Central Command and Africa Command that included daily dives. "They are very well prepared for the operation, and have been progressing exceptionally well."

The Historic Target

The CSS Georgia was built in 1862 in Savannah. Confederate soldiers provided the bulk of the labor force; the Ladies Gunboat Association provided the funding. The group raised \$115,000 to build a ship to protect their city.

The ironclad served its purpose, but wouldn't have been candidate for the "Battle E" ribbon had it existed at the time. The vessel leaked badly, likely a result of using unseasoned wood in her construction. According to historic accounts, the ship had a double engine with twin propellers, but was hardly maneuverable. The engines could not provide the force necessary to drive the heavy vessel against the Savannah River's swift currents. That could be why the ironclad, designed to carry 10 heavy guns, had only four heavy and two light guns at the time of her sinking.

Indeed, there are more questions than answers when it comes to CSS Georgia. What was believed to be the only existing photo of the ironclad was revealed to be a hoax in April, and original plans do not exist, so historians have little more than contradictory contemporary accounts on which to rely. But era engravings as well as eyewitness descriptions suggest the vessel was 160 feet in length with a beam of 55 feet and a 10-foot draft, with a single smokestack projecting from the top. A double layer of interlocked railroad iron weighing more than 1,500 tons was fixed atop 15 inches of solid

timber and covered with cement filled with iron filings. The 24-foot iron walls rested at a 45-degree slope.

The ship was scuttled on Dec. 20, 1864, as Gen. William T. Sherman's Union troops seized the city she was built to protect. She was roughly five miles from Savannah, off Old Fort Jackson on the north edge of the Savannah Harbor navigation channel.

The wreckage, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was inadvertently discovered during dredging operations in 1968. Navy divers retrieved a 64-square-foot section of the warship on Nov. 12, 2013. This enabled further analysis that greenlighted a \$14 million plan by the Army Corps of Engineers to raise the wreckage so Savannah Harbor could expand.

"It's an honor to even be part of something like this," Pounders said. "It's a great honor for me personally. It's a huge part of history, it's a tragic part of history. I think it's good that we remember things like this, and that the nation, parts of the nation or whoever gets to see this, remember that these things happen, and we can always learn from something like that."

SECNAV: Different Uniform Styles Segregate Women

Meghann Myers, Navy Times, May 20

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus has spent years ordering the Navy and Marine Corps to jettison female specific uniform styles as a way to ensure women don't feel apart from their male peers.

As part of this, women are now set to wear service dress blue jumpers, the Dixie cup, choker whites and much else instead of the separate styles that women have worn for decades. But some have questioned the top-down push, which has received a mixture of reactions.

At a public appearance Wednesday, Mabus defended this push in a response to a female officer, who asked him what he was trying to accomplish.

"I think wearing different uniforms has segregated women, sometimes in not good ways," Mabus said. "If we ask any other group to wear a different uniform, can you imagine the outcry?"

In fact, he added, the female dress uniforms are "sort of a historical accident" dating back to World War II.

"When women first came in as WAVES [Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service], they were given different uniforms because they were

not part of the Navy," Mabus said at the public forum, hosted by the media outlet Defense One.

The uniforms — and that sense of separateness — have stuck around, he said.

Mabus has made the uniform standardization a signature issue, in tandem with his yearslong initiative that's opened new communities for female enlisted and officers, such as the submarine force and the riverines.

In her question, Lt. Cmdr. Rosie Goscinski praised Mabus for his efforts to diversify the Navy by recruiting and retaining more women, but asked how the uniform fit into that plan.

"We as a population are a little bit confused about the unification versus the diversity aspect," she said.

Goscinski argued that many of the new uniforms, which are cut to fit women but mimic the style of the men's uniforms, have been wear tested on 18- to 21-year-olds, not taking into account how they might fit more mature women.

Goscinski is the chief of Senate congressional affairs for the head of U.S. European Command, Air Force Gen. Phillip Breedlove. She's also president of the Sea Service Leadership Association, a nonprofit for the professional development of women in the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

She cited hundreds of notes from her fellow female officers who are concerned about the new uniforms fitting properly and looking professional while maintaining their femininity. Enlisted women, similarly, have been concerned the Dixie cup doesn't sit well for those who wear a hair bun.

Female sailors offer mixed reviews for cracker-jacks

Mabus agreed that uniforms in general need some work.

"Part of that is, we haven't done a very good job making sure uniforms fit either men or women," he said.

That extends to covers, he added. The Navy and Marine Corps are moving toward the men's style combination cover for both genders, but the round band needs an update; very few individuals have a round head, Mabus said.

Female uniform tests to include new combo cover

The goal, Mabus said, is to integrate the general look of a sailor.

Mabus was met with a similar question last week after a speech at the Naval Academy, when a graduating midshipman asked why — if he was trying to standardize uniforms — the Navy isn't making men wear female-style covers and dress whites.

In both cases, he argued that the choker whites, for instance, are an iconic U.S. sailor's uniform, and that's why they were chosen as the standard.

"I'll work with you in terms of making sure they fit, in terms of making sure they're tailored," he told Goscinski.

Female graduating midshipmen at the Naval Academy will be the first to test the new women's choker whites at their commissioning ceremony Friday.

Navy to begin testing new female dress uniforms at Naval Academy graduation

The next wear test will begin soon after, involving 20 female flag officers at commands spread around the country.

Uniforms are expected to be for sale online and in exchanges in the fall of 2016, Cmdr. Chris Servello, a spokesman for the chief of naval personnel, told Navy Times.

Obama Torpedoes The Nuclear Navy *John Lehman, Wall Street Journal, May 26*

The president disregards a policy that for decades has ensured effective leadership of the nuclear fleet.

President Obama, possibly unaware of the implications, has made a mistake by nominating Adm. John Richardson as the new chief of naval operations. Adm. Richardson likely would do a fine job in that important role, but by trying to move him from his current position as director of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, the president has crossed a line and created a precedent that could have grave consequences for the effectiveness of the nation's nuclear fleet.

First, a little history is in order. Adm. Hyman Rickover, the father of the U.S. Navy's nuclear fleet and one of the fathers of commercial nuclear power, was a great man. Including his time at the Naval Academy, he served for 55 years on active duty and ran the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program for three decades until his retirement in 1982. He created and oversaw a

culture of personnel and engineering excellence that is unique in the world.

While Adm. Rickover reported to the chief of naval operations and the secretary of the Navy, he had virtually absolute authority and accountability for the Navy's nuclear submarine and surface-ship programs. Largely due to the culture of engineering excellence and quality control he created, nearly 300 U.S. Navy nuclear warships have operated flawlessly for 64 years without a single nuclear incident. They played a major role in giving the U.S. Navy command of the seas and victory

No one desires peace more than the warriors and their families. For they know the true

The soldier, above all, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.

in the Cold War. During the same period their Soviet counterparts had many nuclear accidents and incidents.

I was the secretary of the Navy in the early 1980s when it came time for Adm. Rickover to retire at age 81. The challenge was to preserve his fail-safe personnel policies and the culture of engineering excellence he had created, while ensuring that it could be passed on from one capable successor to another without endangering its discipline even for a short period.

Worst of all, if the job is seen as a stepping-stone, a fraying of the zero-defects culture may begin and the possibility of a nuclear accident within the U.S. Navy may increase. The consequences of a nuclear incident would be devastating and would threaten the Navy's ability to continue to operate its current reactor designs.

The president should reconsider, and with the help of the Senate's advice and consent, should choose another nominee. The Navy has 10 other superbly talented four-star admirals and many more vice-admirals of similar experience to choose from. If President Obama fails to recognize the singular importance of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program and goes forward with the Richardson nomination, historians will have no trouble placing the date and the blame if our nuclear Navy comes to grief.

Mr. Lehman was secretary of the Navy in the Reagan administration, and a member of the 9/11 Com-

mission.

USS Scorpion Memorial MCC Sabrina Parker, May 24



NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – (May 24, 2015) - CDR Robert Landis, USS Albany (SSN 753) commanding officer, accepts the wreath from family members of the USS Scorpion (SSN 589) during a memorial ceremony held at Huntington Park, Newport News, Virginia. The wreath will be given to the crew of the USS Montpelier (SSN 765) and taken on their next underway for proper burial at sea. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Sabrina Parker/Released)

Submarine Memorial Day Ceremony MC1 Steven Khor, May 25



PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii - (May 25, 2015) - Retired submariners Ben Bearis, left, and Hap Belisle of the U.S. Submarine Veterans Bowfin Base chapter, honor submarines and their crews lost at sea, during a Memorial Day ceremony at the USS Parche Park and Submarine Memorial, May 25, on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. At the annual Memorial Day event sponsored by the Bowfin Base SubVets, submariners honor those whose lives were lost defending the nation beneath the sea, and all those on "eternal patrol." (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Steven Khor/Released)

Navy Sub Sailor Pleads Guilty To Videotaping Female Officers Jason Dearen, AP, May 26

MAYPORT NAVAL STATION, Fla. – A Navy submarine sailor was sentenced Tuesday to two years in a military prison after he pleaded guilty to illegally making and trading videos of female officers undressing in the shower.

Charles Greaves, a missile technician, entered his plea and apologized to the four women officers, all of whom testified against him. He is one of seven charged in the case, but was the sole sailor charged with secretly making the videos.

Greaves and the female officers served aboard the USS Wyoming nuclear submarine based at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base in Georgia. Navy prosecutors say Greaves made the videos and then boasted about trading them "like Pokemon" cards for energy drinks and other items with the other sailors.

"The accused has dehumanized these officers and made them objects, objects to be collected," Navy prosecuting attorney Lt. Cmdr. Lee Marsh said.

The case shines a light on issues the Navy has faced in integrating women into crews on ballistic-missile submarines, which it began to do in 2011.

The four female officers who were videotaped were among the first women to serve on Navy submarines in the Atlantic fleet. Marsh said Greaves' punishment – reached in a plea deal in exchange for his admissions and testimony against other sailors – needed to serve as a warning.

"We need to send a message ... that we value female service members," Marsh said. "Great women are here to stay. Get with the program or get out."

The women, some fighting through tears, testified that their careers had been ruined or derailed by the videos.

They all said they were drawn to submarine service because of the family-like atmosphere among the 150 sailors on the Ohio-class sub. The idea that some of these colleagues violated that family trust was devastating.

"I broke down," one of the women officers said, describing her reaction when she learned of the videos. "The people I was working next to, who I had immense faith and trust in ... were not anything that I thought they were."

She said that when she tried to return to her ship, she couldn't look her fellow sailors in the eye.

"I questioned people if they've seen the video, and I couldn't trust anyone that they hadn't," she said.

All four women said they have had a difficult time escaping the incident. One, who now teaches, said when people learn that she served on a submarine they often ask if it was the infamous vessel where women were videotaped.

Greaves said other sailors would serve as a lookout when the female officers were working out. When they finished, and went to the showers, the lookouts would tell Greaves so he could set his cellphone camera up in a crack between pipes that had a view of the submarine's shower area.

"This is a terrible thing to have done to anyone, especially fellow sailors," Greaves said, turning to look at the women in the courtroom gallery. "I shamed myself and derailed my ambitions."

2nd Submariner Guilty Of Sharing Videos Of Women Officers *Jason Dearen, AP, May 27*

MAYPORT NAVAL STATION, Fla. – A second submariner pleaded guilty Wednesday to sharing videos of female officers undressing for a shower, continuing a case that a prosecutor calls a "black eye" for the Navy's integration of women into the nation's sub fleet.

Electronics technician Joseph Bradley entered his guilty pleas in a court-martial trial and was sentenced to 30 days' confinement and a reduction in rank.

Bradley received the videos after they were secretly recorded by another sailor aboard the USS Wyoming nuclear submarine based at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base in Georgia, prosecutors say.

Bradley admitted in a plea agreement to sharing the images with other sailors.

"This is a betrayal of trust and a violation of that brotherhood and that sisterhood of submariners," Navy prosecuting attorney Lt. Cmdr. Lee Marsh said.

"This accused furthered what has become a black eye to the Navy."

On Tuesday, missile technician Charles Greaves received two years in prison and a dishonorable discharge for making the videos. Greaves worked with lookouts on the sub who notified him when the female officers were done working out and were headed to the showers, prosecutors say. Greaves covered his cellphone in tape and stuck it between a gap in pipes that had a view of the sub's shower area.

The case has been a blight on the Navy's integration of women into the submarine force, which it started in 2011.

The women officers videotaped were among the first wave to serve on nuclear submarines. They all said they felt proud to be trailblazers and honored to qualify as submariners, a grueling task that requires mastery of the ship's complicated systems.

Now, the four women officers say the videos have ruined or derailed their careers.

On Wednesday, three of the officers testified about how devastating it has been. They said knowing the videos were shared among the male sailors they led as officers eroded their abilities to do their jobs. "After this happened, I lost the trust of everybody," one woman said. "I couldn't look anyone in the eye and know if they had seen me." Others said the incident has left them paranoid about using restrooms at the gym or in public.

Five more male sailors face charges in the case. The next related court-martial is scheduled on Friday at Kings Bay, and will be a closed proceeding.

Bradley received a more lenient sentence because he was the sailor who ultimately provided the illicit videos to Navy criminal investigators. Bradley faced the women in the courtroom and offered an apology. The women stared back at him as he spoke, stone-faced. "I don't expect you to accept my apology, but I needed to tell you guys," he said.

Chinese Admiral To Defend 'Explosive Issue' Of Island Reclamation At Regional Security Summit Minnie Chan, *South China Morning Post (Hong Kong), May 28*

For the first time, Beijing is sending an admiral to the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore and appears to be well-prepared to assert the legitimacy of its extensive land reclamation in the South China Sea, analysts said.

Admiral Sun Jianguo, deputy chief of the People's Liberation Army's General Staff, will lead the 29-member Chinese team of officials and observers at the regional security summit on Friday and Sunday, organisers said. China sent 25 delegates last year.

William Choong, the Shangri-La Dialogue's senior fellow of Asia-Pacific security, said the South China Sea issue was likely to be "the most explosive topic" among the three themes of terrorism, trade and territorial to be discussed this year.

Last year, sparks flew between United States and China over Beijing's claims over the South China Sea.

"We saw what happened last year when then U.S. defence secretary Chuck Hagel said that China's assertiveness in the South China Sea and its unilateral actions were destabilising to the region," said Choong.

He added that the U.S. Defence Secretary Ashton Carter is expected to make a similar claim.

The tension has mounted in recent weeks after U.S. broadcaster CNN reported warnings from the Chinese navy against a U.S. reconnaissance flight over the area and U.S. accusations that China tried to electronically jam one of its drones.

"The Chinese military is very well-prepared [for the meeting]. Sun is graduate from the PLA navy's submarine school," Beijing-based naval expert Li Jie said.

"Sun is well-versed in international maritime law and China's long-term maritime strategy, which will help him to explain China's island expansion project in the South China Sea and Chinese navy's future missions on the high seas to his foreign counterparts."

Sun, 63, a native of Hebei province, was captain the PLA submarine Long March III in 1985 when it set a world record of 90 days underwater for a nuclear submarine.

China has sent military delegates to the summit since 2007, but it only sent a defence minister in 2011. Last year, it sent another deputy chief of the general staff, Lieutenant General Wang Guanzhong, from the Second Artillery Corps, the army's strategic missile force.

Choong revealed that even last year, China's military delegation "burned the midnight oil and called room service" to hone carefully-crafted responses to U.S. and Japanese presentations the day before at the summit.

"Wang comments that Sunday morning were very clear and particular. He had ready answers to justify China's actions in the South China Sea," Choong said.

As the Sino-U.S. relationship remains otherwise strong, Choong said U.S. military delegates to the meeting always had a realistic approach of "valuing cooperation with their Chinese counterparts" and he expected both sides would "debate carefully" this time, as usual.