



Vol. 15 No. 5

May 2019

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

Base Meeting:

BOD: May 2, 1800
 Membership: May 9, 1900

Location:
 FRA Branch 269
 Low Country Home
 99 Wisteria Rd.
 Goose Creek, SC



Base Commander	Mike Ciesielko	843.324.0011	Chief of the Boat	Joe Lunn	843.747.5368
Base Vice Commander	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282	Veterans Affairs	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282
Secretary	Gordon Long	843.214.2353	Membership	Larry Knutson	843.860.1155
Treasurer	Gordon Williams	843.553.3015	Scholarship	Carl Chinn	843.437.5515
			Storekeeper	Ken Hutchison	843.553.0935
			Historian	George Scharf	843.873.3318
			Public Affairs	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
			Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Events Coordinator	Rick Sparger	843.553.5594
			Holland Club	Bill Freligh	843.553.1115
			Newsletter	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
			Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Kaps for Kids	Bill Kennedy	843.875.3109



Submarines Lost During the Month of May

USS LAGARTO (SS-371)	May 3, 1945 – 2 nd War patrol	Lost with All Hands – 86 Souls
USS SCORPION (SSN-589)	May 22, 1968 – returning from deployment	Lost with All Hands – 99 Souls
USS SQUALUS (SS-192)	May 23, 1939 – during test dive	33 survivors – 26 Souls Lost
USS STICKLEBACK (SS-415)	May 30, 1958 – under tow off Hawaii	NO LOSS OF LIFE

FOUR Boats and 211 Men Lost

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Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Base BOD Meeting	Thursday, June 6, 1800	FRA Branch 269 Goose Creek
Base Meeting	Thursday, June 13, 1900	FRA Branch 269 Goose Creek
Nuclear Power School Class 1902 Graduation	Friday, June 7, 0900	Muster at NEX Parking Lot at 0800
Swamp Fox Meeting	Thursday, June 20, 1130	FRA Branch 269 Goose Creek

Information on all these events are on the base website www.ussvicb.org/events/index.html

Other Happenings of Interest

From the Editor

This edition is rather sparse. I have been spending the last few weeks up in New England visiting my wife's relatives. Just before we left my granddaughter was evicted from her apartment and she has moved in with us so that every inch of space is now taken up with the things from her apartment. On top of that she had to leave her job because of unsafe working conditions and has some medical problems so she won't be working for a while.

From USSVI National

Normal message traffic from USSVI will be published on the Charleston Base Website www.ussvicb.org . If I see anything that should be brought to the notice of our non-computer members I will post it here.

From: Brian A. Steffen
USN RET/Disabled American Veteran
United States Submarine Veteran

Veterans to Receive Free Dental Care at 450+ Aspen Dental Offices Nationwide

Help Support Aspen Dental.s National Day of Service on June 8th

Thousands of veterans will receive free dental care on **Saturday, June 8**, when Aspen dentists and their teams from more than 450 offices across 39 states open their doors for Aspen Dental's 6th annual[SA1] **National Day of Service**.

Many veterans struggle to find accessible and affordable dental care, in particular because most aren't eligible for dental benefits through the VA unless they're 100% disabled, have a service-related

mouth injury or were a prisoner of war. That's why Aspen Dental created the "Healthy Mouth Movement" to help ensure our veterans get the care they need.

It's estimated that 402,596 veterans live in South Carolina.

Here's how you can help:

- Interested veterans need an appointment to receive care and should call **1-844-AspenHMM (1-844-277-3646)** to find a participating practice in their community and schedule an appointment in advance - *space is limited and appointments are filling-up fast!*
- Spread the word in your community! Be sure to use **#HealthyMouthMovement** and **@AspenDental** when posting on Twitter and Facebook. Below are some sample posts you can share.

Sample Social Posts

On June 8, @AspenDental practices in South Carolina will provide free dental care to veterans! Call 1-844-AspenHMM to schedule an appointment today! #HealthyMouthMovement
#DYK: Local @AspenDental practices are giving veterans free dental care on June 8 for their National Day of Service? Interested veterans should call 1-844-AspenHMM (844-277-3646) to schedule an appointment today! #HealthyMouthMovement

Participating Practices in South Carolina

Anderson, SC Bluffton, SC
Charleston, SC Columbia, SC (Harbison)
Columbia, SC (Sandhill) Conway, SC
Easley, SC Greenwood, SC
Lexington, SC Myrtle Beach, SC
N Myrtle Beach, SC North Charleston, SC
Simpsonville, SC Spartanburg, SC
Sumter, SC

Update on Saving the Clamagore

By Rick Wise

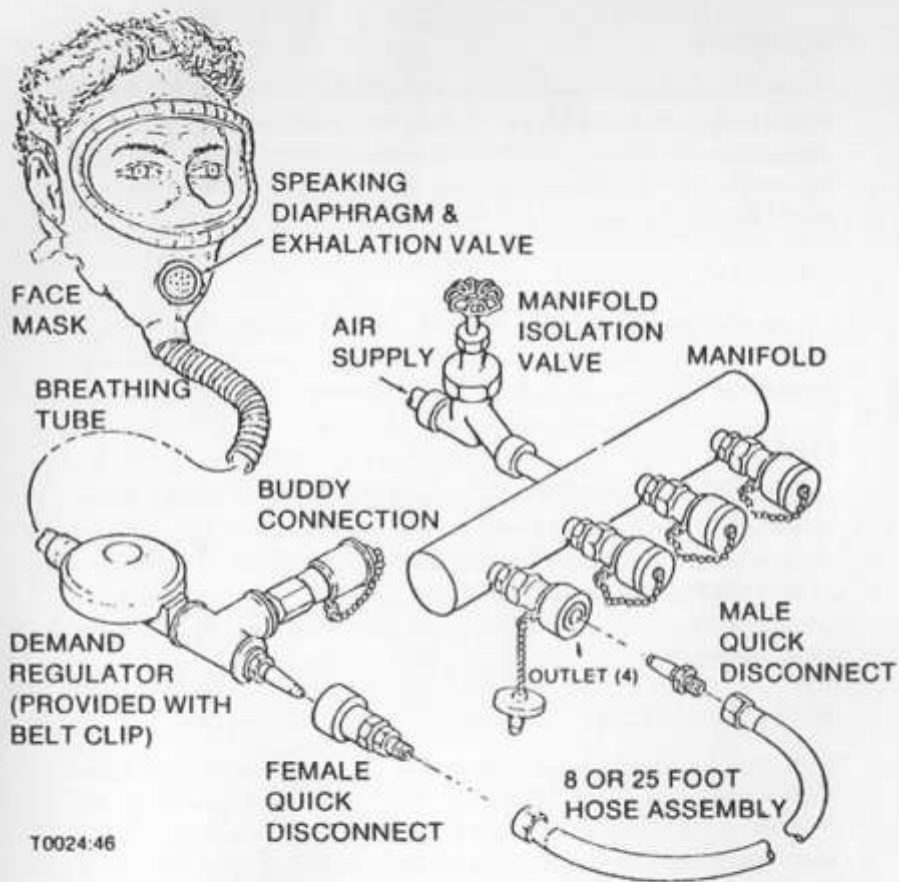
As many of you may know the USS Clamagore SS-343 Restoration and Maintenance Assn., Inc. (CRAMA) has brought a lawsuit against Patriots Point arguing that they have not lived up to the Donation Contract that was signed when USS Clamagore was received. I am not going to talk about anything in the lawsuit. Instead I want to discuss how **YOU** can help save the Clamagore. CRAMA formed in 2013 to try to save the Clamagore and hopefully mount it on land as has been done with several other submarines. One example is the USS Drum in Mobile, AL that was in worse shape than Clamagore is in now. So far we have been successful in stopping Patriots Point from getting rid of Clamagore. We have not engaged in fund raising because we are no more than an idea on how to save the ship and would be unable to put the funds to use. If that changes we believe that we can rapidly raise the funds necessary to drydock and make the necessary repairs to save the boat.

Since we're not asking for money you are probably asking yourself "What can I do?". Here are two things you might consider:

Join CRAMA. The dues are \$20 a year. The more members we have the more likely that we can get the state legislature to listen to us. Contact Rick Wise, George Scharf, Tom Lufkin or Butch Bryar to join or email to secretary@sc.rr.com and I will get back to you.

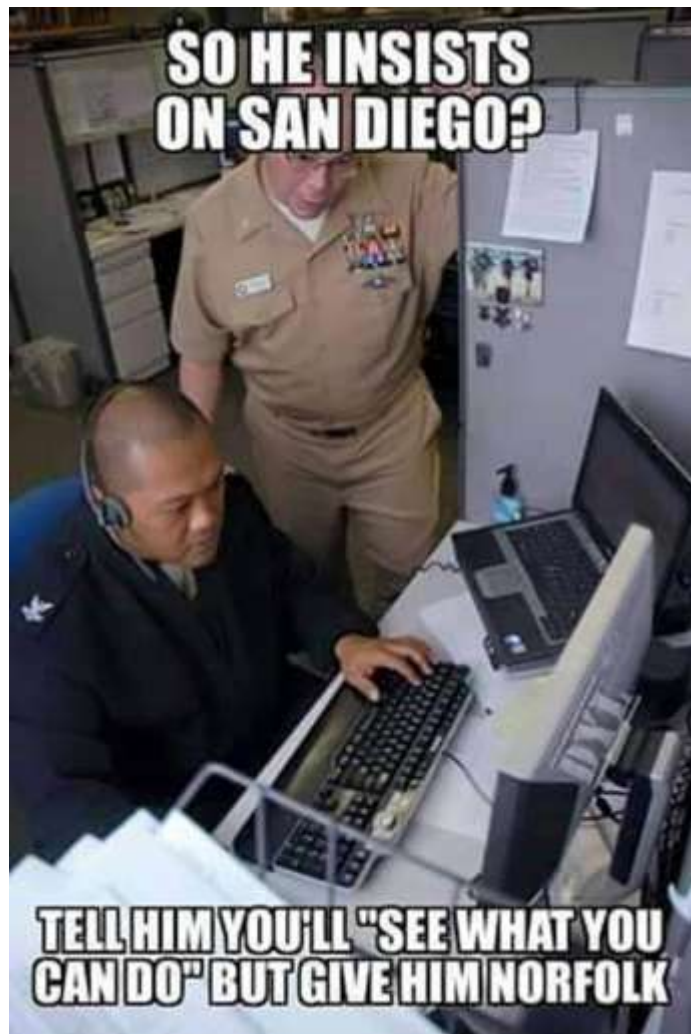
Don't let anyone forget that Patriots Point tried to hide the money to reef the Clamagore in Florida in the State's Education Budget and that only after it was brought to the attention of the legislature that it got changed to in South Carolina. While the Governor has vetoed the measures the legislature can re-instate them. If you are a South Carolina resident please let your state legislator know that you do not want the measure restored. If there is enough interest shown they will be reluctant to restore the funding. Please talk to your friends and family about this too.

EMERGENCY AIR BREATHING MASK INSTRUCTION



Tighten side straps first, then tighten the top strap. Completely loosen all straps upon removal.

Humor



Not meant as humor but here is the COB, Joe Lunn, at the Rivers Dogs game

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base

Minutes of Business Meeting

9 May 2019

Opening Ceremonies:

The May 2019 Base Meeting was called to order by Acting Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of three officers and a total of 66 members present. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander Mike Ciesielko and recited by the members in attendance.

The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of May was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.

Submarines lost during the month of May:

USS LAGARTO (SS-371) May 3, 1945 – 2nd War patrol Lost with All Hands – 86 Souls

USS SCORPION (SSN-589) May 22, 1968 – returning from deployment

Lost with All Hands – 99 Souls

USS SQUALUS (SS-192) May 23, 1939 – during test dive 33 survivors – 26 Souls Lost

USS STICKLEBACK (SS-415) May 30, 1958 – under tow off Hawaii NO LOSS OF LIFE

FOUR Boats and 211 Men Lost

The USSVI Creed was read by Vice Commander Mike Ciesielko, who then welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions of New Attendees:

Three men were present at the Base meeting for the first time:

Andrew Lay – IC2 – Qualified on USS Boise SSN-764 – 2014

David Britt – LT(LDO)/MM – Qualified on USS James K Polk SSBN-645 – 1977 – also served aboard USS James Monroe SSBN-622, USS Simon Bolivar SSBN-641, USS John Adams SSBN-620, CSS-18 SMMS Team, USS Theodore Roosevelt CVN-71. After retiring from the Navy, he worked at Charleston Naval Shipyard until it closed.

Bruce Bohon – ETC – Qualified on USS Simon Bolivar SSBN-641 – 1972 – also served aboard USS Tecumseh SSBN-628

Old Business:

None

New Business:

ELECTIONS – Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison:

As of the beginning of this meeting, Ken had only received one nomination for the office of USSVI Charleston Base Treasurer – the incumbent, Gordon Williams. Ken requested additional nominations from the floor and received none. Ken requested that Gordon Williams be accepted by acclamation. Gordon Williams was accepted as Treasurer by voice vote.

As of the beginning of this meeting, Ken had only received one nomination for the office of USSVI Charleston Base Commander – the Vice Commander/Acting Base Commander, Mike Ciesielko. Ken requested additional nominations from the floor and received none. Ken requested that Mike Ciesielko be accepted by acclamation. Mike Ciesielko was accepted as Base Commander by voice vote.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE COMMANDER – Mike Ciesielko

Acting in capacity of Acting Base Commander/newly elected Base Commander, Mike Ciesielko appointed Tom Lawson to assume his previous duties as USSVI Charleston Base Vice-Commander.

OATH OF OFFICE – Base Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

Three officers were sworn in by the Base Chaplain Nick Nichols

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

Treasurer – Gordon Williams

Secretary – Gordon Long:

The Minutes from April Base meeting have been published in the Base Newsletter and promulgated on the Base website. There were no other additions or deletions to the April Base meeting minutes. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

The Treasurer's Report for April has been published and promulgated on the website. There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:**Highlighted boat of the month:**

USS LAGARTO SS-371 was lost on May 3rd 1945 with the loss of 86 men near the Gulf of Siam. She was on her 2nd war patrol and is believed to have been lost to a radar equipped minelayer. USS HAWKBILL SS-366 got revenge two weeks later by sinking the minelayer.

There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

Diane McBride, daughter of Beetle & Carol Bailey, passed away on Friday, Apr. 26th. Her funeral was on May 2nd. I placed a note of condolence from Charleston Base on the Funeral Home website. I mistakenly put out that Carol had passed in the condolence. I have apologized to Carol.

Leon Manning, uncle of Rick Collins, passed away on Thursday, Apr. 25th in GA. His funeral May 3rd in TN. Leon was 96 years young and a WWII veteran of the US Army Air Corps. I placed a note of condolence from Charleston Base on the Funeral Home website.

Sharon Sessler broke her wrist on Apr. 17th, had surgery on Apr. 25th, and is home recovering.

Bob Snyder was diagnosed with prostate cancer 2 years ago and given 2 years to live. His cancer has spread to several organs and bones. He has had several appointments at the VA this week. His doctor told him today the current treatment was keeping his cancer from getting any worse. He would enjoy receiving calls to talk. 843.412.2530.

Ken Curtis is still fighting and still working on Monday mornings at the VA clinic at NWS doing his DAV function. The latest is he said he isn't any worse but they still can't seem to find the problem. He's had 5 days in the last month without a Dr.'s appointment. They are continuing to give him blood and iron treatments and has had it fairly rough. He is currently in the 4th round of iron infusions.

Soupy Campbell is in Roper downtown Rm 7041 as of yesterday. He has had 3 surgeries in the last month to stop the bleeding from his bladder. He would like visitors and appreciates all who have visited him already.

Roy Robertson is in NHC Rehabilitation Center in West Ashley (2230 Ashley Crossing Dr, Charleston, SC 29414). He's been there for 4 months now. Very hard to understand his speech.

Jim Williams, 60 years old, non-USSVI/CB member, is still in the VA after 3 months. He broke his hip when he fell in his workshop and has undergone 5 surgeries. These all failed due to an infection in his bones. Nothing can be done. He is now in the VA hospital in the CLC area and will be there until end of life. He has a wife who has in remission cancer and a 42 year old mentally disabled son. If you are at the VA downtown for any reason try to stop by and talk to him for a few minutes. Stacy Power's son Casey also went to visit at the VA Hospital.

Gordon Smith's cancer has returned. Nothing can be done at this point.

Art Hance has been diagnosed with stage 2 aggressive prostate cancer. He had surgery on January 8th and is recovering well. He will be going in at a later date for blood work to check if all the cancer was removed.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

Website is constantly updated.

Make use of the EVENTS page on the Charleston Base website. All events that are put out to the membership via email will be listed and updated on the events page.

Greg Webb is working on our Charleston Base mobile app. The plans are to go live with it by August.

Lou Leal is our Social Media Coordinator. The base Instagram (IG) account is working now. If you have something to put on it there are two ways to do so:

When posting to your IG account add #ussvicb and your post will show in base account. Remember the post should have something to do with the base and not just your personal stuff.

If you don't post to your IG account but have something that would be of interest to the base membership, simply send it to social@ussvicb.org and Lou will put it online on the base IG page.

Admin responsibility for the base Facebook (FB) account will transition from Rick Wise to Lou Leal within the next few weeks. Lou will use the FB and IG accounts together to put out information about Charleston Base.

Submarine Veterans of WWII – George Sharf:

We recognized Stacy Power here tonight.

There will be a WWII Luncheon at the FRA in June.

Ed Stank told the Base members that Walt Curtis' wife Maureen has sold her house here and will be moving to Greenville. She needs some help on moving day to load up. Ed will provide more information when available.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

If you have photographs or information that you want put on Facebook or Instagram, send Lewis the items. His email address is on the Base website.

Kaps for Kids – Bill Kennedy

Bill will be scheduling a Kaps for Kids trip to the Shriner's Hospital in Greenville soon. The next Kaps for Kids trip will be to Florence McLeod Hospital on May 21. Meet at 10am on the third floor. Contact Bill and let him know if you want to come. KAPS IN FLO NEXT

Membership – Larry Knutson

USSVI Charleston Base membership increased by one tonight. The Base now has 278 members.

VA – Tom Lawson

Veterans can receive free dental care at more than 450 Aspen Dental facilities nationwide by making an appointment for the date on June 8. Tom has more information for those who need it. Visit their website also for more information.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

The Charleston Basket will be raffled tonight. Contents are:

- A one-night stay at the Embassy Suites (The old Citadel)
- A \$50 gift certificate for dinner at Hyman's Seafood.
- A \$25 gift certificate for Kaminsky's Dessert Café
- A Horse Carriage Tour for two
- A tour of the Aiken-Rhett House
- A bottle of Prosecco wine

There have been seven Scholarship applications received. The Scholarship Committee will meet soon to determine how many Scholarship awards are to be presented at the June Base meeting.

The committee has Base Challenge coins available. \$12 each.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar

A lawsuit was filed by CRAMA against Patriot's Point on April 16. They were served on April 17 and have until May 20 to answer. A tentative court date will be mid-June. When Butch gets a firm date for the hearing, he will let everyone know. Butch has a copy of the suit for those who need to know more. The suit is also available by visiting the Charleston Base website and following the CRAMA link.

CRAMA is in need of members to show support for the lawsuit and beyond. It really would be good to show the judge handling the case several hundred or more people are interested enough to be part of the organization.

For the last 20 years, each Monday, Heritage and History tours of the Clamagore have been conducted with the Nuclear Power School. Butch and others were at Patriot's Point for the tour with the students, but now have been "asked" not to return to Patriot's Point. He is certain that the lawsuit is the reason for this demand. Butch requests that everyone contact Patriot's Point regarding the situation and inquire why submarine veterans are being excluded from visiting Patriot's Point.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

Nothing to Report

NPS – Ray Sparks

The next Nuclear Power School graduation will be June 7.

Fleet Reserve Association – John Lookabill for Skip Chilton

The FRA has upcoming elections. Make sure to vote for the people that you want to have on the board.

Public Affairs – Rick Wise

Rick will be resigning as PAO effective May 31. Jerry Stout has volunteered to assume the duties of PAO.

Rick did some cleaning of the Little David memorial, but the maintenance working party has now been moved to October. By that time, there will be possibly fourteen boards which will require replacement. It gets hot inside during the summer.

Recreation – Ed Stank

The baseball game is sold out. Ed suggested muster at 1830. BASEBALL GAME IS SOLD OUT

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison

Nothing to Report

COB – Joe Lunn

We will be supporting the Memorial Day ceremony at the Summerville Cemetery. Charleston Base will provide the sound system.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko.

Nothing to Report

Good of the Order

After Battery – Ray Sparks

The Hog Roast was successful, having at least 250 present.

On June 2 and June 9, The After Battery will host a Conceal Carry (CWP) class. See Tom Clark for more information.

The cost for the class is \$25.

The Old Salts hog roast in Rhode Island will be held from July 27 to August 3.

Ray was in Groton for the 55th Anniversary of USSVI.

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

Nothing to report

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

Rick pointed out the “Most Popular SubVet”. That honor has to be given to Joe O’Saben as his picture is in the newspaper every day about a dozen times. No Charleston Base member can even come close to that amount of “popularity”. [Joe has multiple advertisements in the paper for his real estate business.]

An old, retired, Navy Captain physician, Doctor Gordon Geezer, became very bored in retirement and decided to reopen a medical clinic. He put a sign up outside that said, “Dr. Geezer’s Clinic. Get your treatment for \$500 – if not cured, get back \$1,000.”

U.S. Army Captain, Doctor Digger Young, who was positive that this old geezer didn’t know beans about medicine, thought this would be a great opportunity to get \$1,000. So, he went to Dr. Geezer’s office.

Dr. Young: “Dr. Geezer, I have lost all taste in my mouth. Can you please help me?”

Dr. Geezer: “Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in Dr. Young’s mouth.”

Dr. Young: “Aaagh! – This is gasoline!”

Dr. Geezer: “Congratulations! You’ve got your taste back. That will be \$500.”

Dr. Young gets annoyed and goes back after a couple of days figuring to recover his money.

Dr. Young: “Dr. Geezer, I have lost my memory. I cannot remember anything.”

Dr. Geezer: “Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in the patient’s mouth.”

Dr. Young: “Oh, no you don’t – that is gasoline!”

Dr. Geezer: “Congratulations! You’ve got your memory back. That will be \$500.”

Dr. Young (after having lost \$1,000) leaves angrily and comes back after several more days.

Dr. Young: “My eyesight has become very weak – I can hardly see anything.”

Dr. Geezer: “Well, I don’t have any medicine for that, so, here’s your \$1,000 back” (giving him a \$10 bill).

Dr. Young: “But this is only \$10!”

Dr. Geezer: “Congratulations! You’ve got your vision back. That will be \$500.”

** MORAL OF THE STORY ** Just because you’re “Young” doesn’t mean that you can outsmart and “old Geezer”.

** REMEMBER ** Don’t make old people mad. We don’t like being old in the first place, so it doesn’t take much to piss us off.

Drawings & Auctions

FRA Drawing – Rodney McKanna

Scholarship Charleston Basket Raffle – Mike Ciesielko

Depth Charge – Ron Snyder

Closing Ceremony

Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting followed by three blasts on the diving alarm.

The meeting was closed at 1952.

UNDERSEA WARFARE NEWS

Navy to Award Next Columbia-Class Contract by Oct. 1

Staff, *The Exchange Monitor*, May 8 13

The next contract for the U.S. Navy's program to build its fleet of Columbia-class ballistic missile submarines will be the Block I construction contract, according to program manager Capt. John Rucker.

That is expected to cover the first two boats. "[W]e will award that no later than Oct. 1, 2019, to build the ships on schedule," Rucker said last week at the Navy League's annual Sea Air Space Expo at National Harbor, Md. The Navy plans to replace its current fleet of Ohio-class submarines with 12 Columbia-class vessels. Construction of the first Columbia boat is scheduled to begin by Oct. 1, 2020, for deployment by 2030.

Separately, the Ohio-class USS Rhode Island ballistic missile submarine test-launched an unarmed Trident D-5 missile on May 9. The Navy noted this was the 172nd successful test flight of the D-5 since it was introduced to the fleet in 1989. The trial launch was part of a demonstration and shakedown operation, DASO-29, which the Navy said aims to "evaluate and demonstrate the readiness of the SSBN's strategic weapon system and crew before operational deployment following its engineered refueling overhaul (ERO)." The Rhode Island in August 2018 finished its ERO, which extended the boat's life by over 20 years and involved a refueling and upgrade.

Navy Must Retain 80 Percent of Sailors Annually To Grow Fleet

Ben Werner, *USNI News*, May 16

The Navy needs to retain close to 80 percent of its force each year if it hopes to meet staffing requirements of its growing fleet, the service's personnel chief told lawmakers on Thursday.

The Navy is on track grow by 7,500 active duty personnel this year and by 5,000 sailors each year through Fiscal Year 2024, Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Robert Burke told the House Armed Services subcommittee on military personnel. Burke was joined by his counterparts from the Marine Corps, Army and Air Force.

If the Navy meets its recruiting and retentions targets, Burke said the force would be able to adequately staff the 314-ship fleet the Navy anticipates sailing in 2024. The Navy's FY 2020 budget request calls for a force of 354,000 by 2024. Predicting the size of a force needed to staff the planned 355-ship Navy is difficult because technology and ship types will likely change during the decades it will take to build such a fleet. Based on Congressional Budget Office predictions and current staffing needs of ships in the fleet, USNI News estimates the Navy ultimately needs to grow to nearly 375,000 active duty personnel. As of Thursday, the service had an end strength of 332,507 officers and enlisted sailors, according to the Navy.

Most sailors initially join on six-year contracts, Burke said. His staff is focused on getting the vast majority of those joining now to re-enlist in the future.

"When we're at a stable size, we need a roughly around 55 percent retention to that second contract. Right now, we need much higher than that because we're trying to balance accessions versus retentions because we don't want a really junior force manning that 355-ship Navy, we want a mix of experienced people, so we need in the 70- to 80-percent region, and we're in that ballpark now," Burke said.

All branches of the military are facing the same challenges in recruiting and retaining personnel. A strong economy provides active duty personnel career options outside of uniform which can pay more. Another critical component of retention is considering the changing nature of the force, Burke said.

"67 percent of our officers and over half of our enlisted sailors are married, and many of them are dual-professional couples," he said. "We have to address that reality if we're going to retain the family."

In contrast, the Marine Corps' end strength needs are very modest – total growth of 400 Marines between now and FY 2024, Lt. Gen. Michael Rocco, the Marine Corps deputy commandant for manpower and reserve affairs, told lawmakers during the hearing. The Marine Corps currently has about 186,000 active duty personnel.

"100 this year and 300 through the rest of the FYDP (future years defense program) and it has to specifically do with providing special operations critical skill enablers," Rocco said of the Marine Corps' projected end strength growth.

Turning our submarine tragedies into living memorials

Mark D. Faram, *Navy Times*, May 18

An artificial reef will be created over the next few months honoring the 65 submarines and more than 4,000 submariners lost at sea since the Navy's undersea force was created in 1900.

Scattered across the world's oceans, these boats are said to be on "Eternal Patrol" because they never came back.

And that's why a proposed living tribute to them is called the "On Eternal Patrol Memorial Reef."

The culmination of a five-year effort by United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. and the Florida-based nonprofit Eternal Reefs, planners hope to place it on the ocean floor in the Gulf of Mexico, about 60 feet under the waves and nine miles off the coast of Sarasota.

Supporters want it to not only become a site where loved ones can entomb the ashes of submariners forever but also a diving attraction so visitors can pay their respects in person.

"This is the first and only memorial honoring the sacrifice of these submariners in the environment in which they served — the ocean," said George Frankel, the chief executive officer of Sarasota-based Eternal Reefs. Since 1998, Eternal Reefs has created nearly 2,000 underwater memorials in 25 locations along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, according to the organization.

The idea is a marriage between environmentalists and submarine veterans.

To submariners, it keeps the memories of fallen sailors alive; by creating coral reefs, environmentalists help protect shorelines from storms and erosion, preserve wetlands and provide shelter to marine organisms at risk from global climate change and pollution.

The project is slated to kick off on May 22, the 51st anniversary of the loss of the Norfolk-based fast-attack submarine Scorpion.

It went down in the Atlantic in 1968, taking all 99 of its crew.

Frankel told Navy Times the reef will be created by laying 67 concrete domes close to each other on the seabed. Vented, they look like giant gray Whiffle Balls. Because their weight is concentrated at the bottom of the dome and holes let water flow through them, they're designed to withstand the force of heavy seas.

"The concrete is specially formulated to be neutral chemically, much like that natural strata where natural reefs form," Frankel said. "This, along with a textured surface, encourages marine life to grow quickly, really, and you can see it growing usually after just a few days."

Affixed to the balls will be brass plaques that identify the lost submarine, its last known location and the number of officers and crew on board when it began its eternal patrol.

Frankel said that 65 of the domes will be dedicated to specific boats. Another will pay homage to United States Submarine Veterans Inc. — or USSVI — and a second will honor the entire community of submariners, including those killed in non-sinking incidents.

Most of the balls will recall World War II losses, when 52 boats never came home. Before the conflict ended, 3,506 officers and submariners were killed.

On May 22, four domes are scheduled to be lowered to the ocean floor.

Each honors the boats lost since World War II — Cochino, which sank off the coast of Norway in 1949; Stickleback, lost after a 1958 collision with the destroyer escort Silverstein off Hawaii; the nuclear-powered Thresher, which never came up from a deep-diving test off Cape Cod in 1963; and Scorpion.

The other balls commemorating lost boats will be added during the summer.

"Really our whole purpose is to honor those of us who never came home," said William Andrea, a former National Junior Vice Commander of USSVI. "The idea of recognizing those on eternal patrol with something that will live on forever — and being under the ocean, too — is something that resonates with our members."

Submarine veterans have contacted the organizations asking to rest eternally at the reef, too. The idea is to bring a string of pearls to the scattering of balls.

"The site has already been approved for this and along with the balls, we have what we call 'pearls,'" Frankel said.

"We mix the same proprietary concrete with cremains that can be shaped and decorated by family members."

On the seabed, the pearls also will attract marine life and become mini-reefs, Frankel said.

Moran Confirmed as 32nd Chief of Naval Operations

Staff, Seapower Magazine, May 28

The U.S. Senate has confirmed Adm. Bill Moran to become the 32nd chief of naval operations (CNO).

The chief of naval personnel, Vice Adm. Robert Burke, also was confirmed for promotion to admiral and appointment as the next vice chief of naval operations (VCNO), the Office of the Navy Chief of Information said in a release.

"I am deeply humbled and honored to be given the opportunity to continue to serve as our Navy's next chief of naval operations," Moran said in a statement released after his confirmation May 24.

"[CNO] Adm. [John] Richardson and his wife, Dana, are an amazing team that has consistently advocated on behalf of our Sailors and their families. My wife, Patricia, and I are grateful for their service to our Navy and our nation. I look forward to the honor of leading the men and women of the world's greatest Navy in service to our nation."

Acting Defense Secretary Patrick M. Shanahan announced President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Moran and Burke on April 11.

Moran will be the first naval aviator to become the Navy's top officer since Adm. Jay L. Johnson, who served as CNO from 1996 to 2000. In the years since, three surface warfare officers and two submariners have served as CNO, according to another Navy press release.

Moran, a native of Newburg, New York, also would be the first CNO since Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, who served from 1967 to 1970, to have been a patrol plane pilot. Moorer flew PBV Catalina aircraft in World War II. Moran is a P-3 Orion pilot.

At the time of Moran's nomination, Richardson said that Moran "is an amazing leader and good friend. He has been central to the Navy adopting a fighting stance in this 'Great Power Competition.' As I turn over and go ashore, I will rest easy knowing that, pending confirmation, Adm. Moran has the watch."

Moran served in Patrol Squadron 44 (VP-44) in Brunswick, Maine, and twice as an instructor pilot in VP-30 in Jacksonville, Florida. He commanded VP-46 and later Patrol Reconnaissance Wing Two in Hawaii. He also served on the staff of commander, Carrier Group 6, aboard USS Forrestal (CVA-59).

As a flag officer, he has served as commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group; director, Air Warfare (N98) on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations; and most recently as the 57th chief of naval personnel, according to his official biography. Ashore, he served as executive assistant to the chief of naval operations; executive assistant to Commander, U.S. Pacific Command; deputy director, Navy staff; and assistant Washington placement officer and assistant flag officer detailee in the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

Moran graduated with a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1981 and a master's from the National War College in 2006.

Burke is a nuclear submariner who has served onboard USS Von Steuben (SSBN-632), USS Maryland (SSBN-738) and USS Bremerton (SSN-698), according to his official biography.

He commanded USS Hampton (SSN-767) and later became commodore of Submarine Development Squadron 12.

Burke was recognized by the United States Submarine League with the Jack Darby Award for Leadership in 2004 and the Vice Admiral James Bond Stockdale Award for Inspirational Leadership in 2005.

His staff assignments include tours as an instructor and director for the Electrical Engineering Division at Naval Nuclear Power School; junior board member on the Pacific Fleet Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board; submarine officer community manager/nuclear officer program manager; senior Tactical Readiness Evaluation Team member at Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; the deputy director for Operations, Strategy and Policy Directorate (J5) at U.S. Joint Forces Command; division director, Submarine/Nuclear Power Distribution (PERS-42); and director, Joint and Fleet Operations, N3/N5, U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

Burke's assignments as a flag officer include deputy commander, U.S. 6th Fleet; director of operations (N3), U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa; commander, Submarine Group 8; and director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy (OPNAV N13). He assumed duties as the Navy's 58th chief of naval personnel on May 27, 2016. Burke, from Portage, Michigan, holds bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from Western Michigan University and the University of Central Florida, respectively.

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