



March 2006
Volume 12 - Issue 3

**What's "Below Decks"
in the Midwatch**

ITEM	PAGE NO.
Title Page	1
2006 Booster Club Members	2
Sailing Orders(upcoming activities)	3
List of Base Officers	3
"From the Wardroom"	4
February 2006 Meeting Minutes	4
ANNUAL PICNIC NOTICE	6
Chaplain's Corner	7
White Mountain Base (Minutes and Commander's Corner)	8
Eternal Patrol - U.S.S. Grampus (SS-207)	10
Submarine Trivia Quiz	11
Submarines of Today: India Upgrades Diesel Boats	12
Submarines of Today: Dive Tower Work Leaps Forward	13
"After Battery Rat"	14
Answers to Submarine Trivia Quiz	15
Mailing Page	16



<http://perch-base.org>

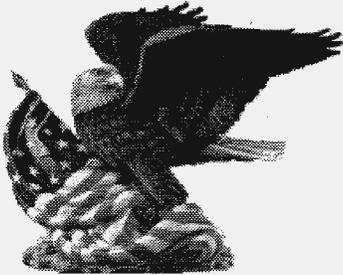
Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol

MARCH ETERNAL PATROLS

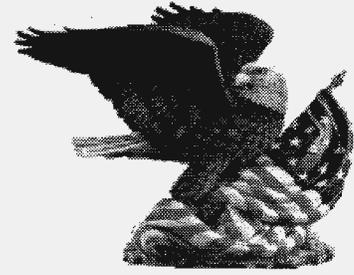
USS F-1	SS21	Mar. 25, 1915	21 men
USS H-1	SS28	Mar. 12, 1920	4 men
USS Perch	SS176	Mar. 3, 1942	6 men (as POW's)
USS Grampus	SS207	Mar. 5, 1943	71 men
USS Triton	SS201	Mar. 15, 1943	74 men
USS Tullibee	SS284	Mar, 26, 1944	79 men
USS Kete	SS369	Mar. 20, 1945	87 men
USS Trigger	SS237	Mar. 26, 1945	89 men

NEW LOCATION!
REGULAR MEETING
 February 18, 2006
 American Legion Post #105
 3534 W Calavar Rd.
 Phoenix, AZ

The Perch Base USSVI is not able to totally support itself financially on the dues collected from its members. There has, to date, been no successful and ongoing plan since the base was formed to produce any other steady and effective source of income. Therefore, the Base has relied on additional donations from members -- usually given at membership renewal -- for its survival. Listed below are those charitable givers, known as the Booster Club.



2006 Booster Club



A. H. "Bob" Nance	Adrian Stuke	Allan Miller	Billy Grieves
Bradley L. Butler	Bruce "Robie" Robinson	Butch DeShong	Charles Greene
Dave Harnish	David Carpenter	Doug LaRock	Edgar Brooks
Chuck Emmett	Edward Hawkins	Edward J. Hawkins	Emil Schoonejans
F.J. "Ted" Asbell	Frank Rumbaugh	Gary Bartlett	George L. Crider
George Long	George Petrovitz	Glenn Herold	Harold C. Lister
Harry Heller	Jack R. McCarthy	James Denzien	James L. Wall
James W. Newman	Jerry N. Allston	Jim Nelson	John Cash
John Messersmith	John T. Hellem	John Zaichkin	Joseph Bernard
Kenneth Becker	Kenneth R. Anderson	L. A. "Mike" Keating	Lester Hillman
Mel Rycus	Paul V. Miller	Ray Samson	Raymond Marshall
Raymond Schaeffer	Reynaldo Atos	Richard Bernier	Richard Simmons
Robert A. Lancendorfer	Robert A. Sungy	Robert Lents	Robert May
Roger Cousin	Roger M. Miller	Roger R. Miller	Ron Kloch
Ronald Beyer	Royce Pettitt	Stanley Rud	Stephen Day
Stephen Hough	Terry Martin	W. Scott Prothero	William L. McNay
Wayne K. Smith	Wayne Braastad	Walter Blomgren	Tim Moore
Thomas Moore	Stan Reinhold	Ronald Zomok	Robert Hanson
Ray Lee Graybeal	Milton Magart	Mike Simpson	Larry M. Rankin
Kenny Wayne	Ken Schonauer	Joseph R. Mullins	Jim Thomson
Jerry Yowell	James Edwards	Jack S. Kimball	Harry Ellis
Edward Wolf	Davy Jones	Darrell Lambert	Clair E. Prokupek
Buck Crouch			



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Sailing Orders



NEW LOCATION!

REGULAR MEETING

March 18, 2006

American Legion Post #105

3534 W Calavar Rd.

Phoenix, AZ

**(Located at the northwest corner of
35th Avenue and Thunderbird, 1 block
north of thunderbird)**

ANNUAL PERCH BASE SPRING PICNIC

Saturday, March 25, 2006

1100 until 1600

Maricopa Live Steamers Railroad Park.

**Lunch, catered by Stan Reinhold — served
around noon.**

**\$5.00 for each adult, children under 12 are
free.**

Several prizes will be raffled off.

From the Wardroom

Dear Shipmates,

As most of you are aware, last month we had our first meeting at our new meeting site. I have received favorable feedback regarding our accommodations and the warm and supportive welcome we received from the board and membership of American Legion Post #105. For the near term, we will continue meeting there. The e-board of Post #105 has also voted in favor of and has graciously offered us storage space. With some good planning, this may accommodate all of our ship's stores and perhaps some, or maybe even all, of our library storage needs. Thank you to Jim Edwards and Post #105 for your support.

Today I returned from the Western Region USSVI Conference in Reno, NV. The meeting was hosted by Corvina Base with Western Region Director Dave Harnish presiding. Arizona was well represented. The attendees included; Glenn Herold, District 1 Commander, Jack Messersmith, Gudgeon Base Commander, Ed Brooks (too many titles to mention here), John Dudas Gudgeon Base Member and National Veterans Affairs Chairman, and John's wife Carol. Don Brown and his Corvina Base shipmates did an outstanding job hosting this event which was held at the El Dorado in Reno. I got a lot out of the conference and it was well worthwhile. If you ever get an opportunity to attend a Regional Conference, a WWII Submarine Veterans Conference or a National Convention, you absolutely need to do it. The esprit de corps, brotherhood and sharing is motivational and spiritually uplifting. Attending these events should be a high priority for all the members of our organization. There are at least two more opportunities for your participation this year. There is no doubt in my mind that if you attend, you will get a great deal out of it and be glad that you went.

Keep in mind, that we will have our Perch Base elections at our next meeting. Your participation is extremely important. I look forward to seeing you this coming Saturday.

Fraternally,

Tim Moore, commander, Perch Base USSVI

February Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the members of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #105 Phoenix, AZ at 1300 hours, 18 February 2006. The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander – Tim Moore.

The members were led in a prayer of invocation followed by the standard ceremonial opening.

According to the sailing list, there were twenty-nine (29) members and two (2) guests at the meeting. Guests were Wayne Pettes and William Custance.

The guests were welcomed with a resounding round of applause.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the January meeting be approved as published in the Base Newsletter, "The MidWatch." The motion carried by voice vote.

Jim Denzien reported the Base's financial status as of the first day of February, 2006. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Base Vice Commander – Stan Reinhold was not at the meeting.

Base Chief of the Boat – Bob Gilmore reported the American Legion Post #62's new building was open and being occupied by the Post. However, all the available meeting space is used on Saturdays for bingo and currently there is no provision for Perch Base to meet in the facility on that day of the week.

Base Chaplain – Howard Doyle reported on the sickness and distress of several of our members including; Joe O'treba, Harold Lister and Kay Hamish. Everyone was encouraged to remember them in our prayers as they battle to overcome their individual ailments.

Membership Chairman – Ramon Samson reported that there are 16 members who have failed to renew their membership in the organization. There is currently 138 active members in Perch Base.

Webmaster – Ramon Samson had nothing new to report. However, it was acknowledged that the web site has been and is an effective recruiting tool.

Newsletter Editor – Chuck Emmett was not at the meeting.

Ship's Storekeeper – Jim Nelson reported that the special order items recently requested are in.

OLD BUSINESS

Tim Moore announced that, for the time being, future Perch Base meetings will most likely be held at the American Legion Post #105. Shipmate Jim Edwards has been of invaluable assistance in arranging for the accommodations by the Post and his efforts are greatly appreciated.

Tim also announced that the annual Perch Base picnic will be held at the Maricopa Live Steamers Train Park on March 25. The event will start at 1100 hours and conclude at 1600 hours. The price for attendance will be \$5 per person for adults, while children will be free.

It was announced that the Parade Float Committee will be investigating other local events in which Perch Base may participate as a group. The value of participation in parades and other public events includes the memorial aspect as well as a recruiting tool for new members. Other recruiting ideas are being solic-

ited from members.

Members were again encouraged to become actively involved with the Phoenix Society/Commission in their efforts to establish a submarine memorial in the Phoenix area using the sail and rudder from the USS Phoenix.

Members were also encouraged to attend the Submarine Veterans – WWII Southwest Caucus in Laughlin, Nevada in April and offer their support and assistance to our WWII SubVets.

Dave Hamish reminded the members that the March meeting will feature the election of officers. The current slate of officers has all agreed to allow their names to be placed in nomination for the offices they now hold.

Tim Moore reminded members that tickets for the raffle of cash and accommodation upgrades on the 2007 Convention Cruise to Alaska are still on sale. A portion of the revenue from the ticket sales also comes back to the Base Treasury.

Dave Harnish reminded members of the upcoming Western Region Conference which starts on March 6th and ends March 8. The event will be held in Reno, Nevada at the El Dorado Hotel.

NEW BUSINESS

Frank Rumbaugh inquired as to the status of the Perch Base Policy and Procedures Manual. It was indicated that the publishing of the manual was still not complete and the effort has stalled.

A discussion was introduced with regard to the Base's involvement in outside charitable causes in order to draw attention to the Base for publicity and ultimate recruitment of new members. No actions were offered for a vote.

Another issue was brought to the floor regarding the Christmas Party/Awards Banquet location. Tim Moore asked the members to offer any alternatives to the Luke EM Club location. The deposit made to reserve that facility for the 2006 party is refundable until July, and if no other alternatives are identified by then, the event will be held at that location.

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Ray Samson announced that the USS Torsk (SS-423), Memorial in Baltimore, MD has the opportunity to procure two MK 14 torpedoes at a total expense of \$3000. Anyone who would like to help in this effort may contribute funds to the Torsk Memorial.

Dave Hamish reminded the members that the USSVI Scholarship Program is accepting applications from qualified high school and college students. He also mentioned that there were 24 scholarships awarded in 2005 and if contributions allow, even a larger number will be awarded this year.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Tim Moore advised the members that thank-you letters have been sent to the individuals and organizations that provide valued support to Perch Base in participating in the Phoenix Veterans' Day Parade.

It was also announced that Perch Base will not be participating in the May celebration in Yarnell, AZ (Yarnell Daze). It was suggested that Gudgeon Base may want to participate.

A suggestion was made that Perch Base and Gudgeon Base have a joint meeting in July or August. It was a practice in past years, for Perch Base to hold one of their meetings in the Prescott area. Now that there is a Base in the Prescott area, it would be a positive event to have a combined meeting.

Tim Moore presented Ray Samson with a letter of commendation for the Perch Base Web Site being recognized for its quality and content. Perch Base was selected as First Runner-Up for the Best USSVI Web Site of 2005.

Howard Doyle asked the members to notify him of any and all members who are experiencing illness or health problems.

Dave Hamish gave the members a report of the recognition awards recently given to Phoenix area Eagle Scouts and extolled the benefits of SubVets participating in this special program.

50/50 DRAWING

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Emil Schoonejans.

ADJOURNMENT

All the outstanding business being concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans - Perch Base be adjourned. The motion carried by voice vote.

The closing prayer was offered by Howard Doyle and the meeting was adjourned at 1400 hours.

Ed Brooks, secretary, Perch Base



ANNUAL PERCH BASE SPRING PICNIC

Saturday, March 25, 2006

1100 until 1600

Maricopa Live Steamers Railroad Park.

Lunch, catered by Stan Reinhold — served around noon.

\$5.00 for each adult, children under 12 are free.

Several prizes will be raffled off.



Chaplain's Column



Donald ROBERTSON passed away on February 23, 2006. He was born March 29, 1917 in Elk City, Kansas, left a loving wife Willena, daughters Mary Shindell and Sylvia Edwards, son-in-law Richard Shindell, and grandchildren Matthew, Daniel, Patrick and Nicholas Shindell, Christopher Robertson and Amy Holcomb (husband Jeff). He is preceded in death by parents Ralph Miller Robertson and Grace Hall Robertson and brother Keil David Robertson.

Don proudly served his country in the Navy Submarine Service during World War II. As a Chief Motor Machinist he completed 16 patrols in the Asia Pacific aboard the USS Sea Devil. He worked over thirty years at Garrett AirResearch until retirement in 1979. Don will be remembered as a quiet, friendly, genuinely nice fellow who was content in life and met every day with a smile.

Sailor, rest your oar.

Donald Nye Reinhold, 82, a long time resident of Farm Lane, Seabrook, NH, passed away on March 7, 2006 at the Mease Countryside Hospital, in Safety Harbor, FL, while visiting relatives in Clearwater, FL. Mr. Reinhold died after a short period of failing health, due to complications of Myelofibrosis, which is a cancer affecting the bone marrow.

Mr. Reinhold was born in North Brookfield, MA in 1923. He was an Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America. He was a World War II Veteran, serving in the U.S. Coast Guard, serving in the pacific theatre. He was a Culinary Chef, who with his longtime friends, Chefs Skip Marden and Phil Learner help found the Piscataqua New Hampshire Chapter of the American Culinary Federation. Chef Reinhold owned several seacoast NH restaurants, including Jo & Don's Restaurant in Kittery, ME, the Sunset Diner in Lee, NH, the Oxbow Restaurant in Northwood, NH, the Reinhold House in Hampstead, NH, and he owned a catering business in his later years. Mr. Reinhold was an active Lifetime Member, and was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award in the ACF in 1995 and was elected Chef of the Year in 2002. He was a lifetime member of the Portsmouth, NH Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion. He was also a Master Mason of the Budley Lodge in Beverly, MA, and a Shriner of the Becktash Temple.

Mr. Reinhold was the father of Stanley Nye Reinhold (fellow shipmate of Perch Base, USSVI) of Peoria, AZ, and had attended Base meetings with his son. Although not a submariner, we at Perch Base thought of him as a shipmate.

Sailor, rest your oar.



Commander

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**White
 Mountain**



Base

OUR CREED:

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



Commander's Corner

Commanders Corner

At the February meeting we had the best turnout of members ever, even better than our summer meetings – GREAT – Dee LeFevre became a life member of White Mountain Base.

Ken Shade, our Golf Tournament Chairman has received a check from Blackhart, Inc. to sponsor a hole at our tournament.

Charley Jones is back from Antarctica with great pictures of his trip.

Del Foepahl has joined as an associate member. This makes 20 members. Welcome aboard, Del.

Due to wind and weather, Phil Caster's ham radio set was not up to snuff. But, Phil says he will try again at our next meeting. So, if you arrive around 10 am, you may be able to talk to an old shipmate.

Donna Kalberg from S.A.F.E. House gave us a talk on their programs about abused women and children.

The March 18th meeting will start at 11 am at Jim Clewett's house. Jack Latham of Congressman Renzi's office will bring us up to date on the latest Veteran's Affairs.

I will be serving GOOD OLD BEANS AND CORNBREAD just like you had for breakfast in the Navy. Hope to see you all then, 18 March 2006. My number is 928-536-7390 for directions.

Fraternally Yours,

Jim Clewett, Base Commander

Meeting Minutes

Members present at the February 18th, 2006 meeting were Jim Clewett, Steve Day, Del Foepahl, Frank Nagle, Phil Caster, Ken Shade, Buck Biddle, Adam Dykman, Eugene Quinlan, Armand Deprins, Dee LeFevre and Charles Jones

The meeting was called to order at 11:06 AM with an invocation by Phil Caster, the Pledge of Allegiance, reading of our creed, and tolling of the bell. Del Foepahl, Donna Kalberg, and Susan Day were welcomed as guests.

The minutes of the January meeting were read and accepted.

Members were reminded to pay their dues by the end of the month – Base life members only need to pay National – National life members pay Base.

There is \$1268.59 in the Treasury with a check of \$50 yet to be deposited.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to give a base tee shirt to the S.A.F.E. House director.

The golf towels are in progress and will cost \$3.80 each for 4 color printing, the hole in one contest can be for \$10,000 for a cost of \$265 (or less) and a motion was made, seconded and passed to go with this amount.

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Dee LeFevre reported that the Gymkhana is starting in April and that we can again sponsor for \$100. A motion was made, seconded and passed to sponsor for \$100, our base flag will fly at the event which will be the third Saturday in July (at the Young parade).

Donna from S.A.F.E House presented information about the Domestic Violence and sexual assault program. They are trying to get a grant to expand their facilities, there is room for 5 mothers and 17 children and are usually full. The Domestic Violence Center, police and local hospitals refer clients. The women are placed in school or job training. Some of the women are not qualified for access so that part of the budget goes to health care. General necessities such as clothing, toiletries, room, board, etc. are provided by the shelter with 100% of dona-

tions going to the women and children. The Show Low VFW helps with food boxes. The shelter is supported by Show Low (\$5,000 last year), and the Department of Economic Security, The United Way, and FEMA. There are 8 paid professional staff (therapists etc.) at the shelter along with 52 volunteers. The average stay is 35 days. The total budget for the shelter is around \$300,000 per year. All funds are accountable to outside CPA on a monthly basis. Donna said that the best donation is cash to the general fund because monies given for specific uses (e.g. Washer/dryer) cannot be used for any other purpose. A motion was made, seconded and passed to donate the proceeds of the Golf Tournament to the general fund to be used as needed.

The March 18th meeting will be at Jim's house at 11 am, the radio will be set up @ 10 am.

The Heber American Legion hours have changed, so the May meeting will be at the Snowflake Golf Course at 11 am. The April meeting will be at the Heber American Legion at noon.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Adam Dykman who donated the \$20 to the S.A.F.E. House.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 pm.

Lois Keating <i>Office Manager</i>

590 N. Alma School Rd Ste. #11 Chandler, AZ 85224 (480) 883-9822 Queen Creek: (480) 988-2699





Eternal Patrol March 5, 1943

Editors Note: *Less we forget, each month, one boat on eternal patrol will be highlighted in this newsletter. Sailors, rest your oars.*

The Final Patrol

Lord, this departed shipmate with dolphins on his chest
is part of an outfit known as the best.
Make him welcome and take him by the hand.
You'll find without a doubt he was the best in all the land.
So, heavenly Father add his name to the roll
Of our departed shipmates still on patrol
Let them know that we who survive
Will always keep their memories alive.



U.S.S. Grampus (SS-207) 71 men lost



dspl 1475 (surf.), 2370 (subm.); length 307'; beam 27'; draft 13' 3" (mean);
speed. 20 k. (surf.), 8.75 k. (subm.); test depth 250 ft.;
armament: 1-3"/50, 10-21" torpedo tubes, 6-fwd., 4-aft;
complement 4 officers, 54 enlisted men; class GAR

Keel laid by the Electric Boat Co., Groton, CT. 14 February 1940;
Launched 23 December 1940; Sponsored by Mrs. Clark H. Woodward;
Commissioned 23 May 1941; Lt. Edward S. Hutchinson in command



After shakedown in Long Island Sound, *USS GRAMPUS II* (SS-207) sailed to the Caribbean with *USS GRAYBACK* (SS208) on 8 September to conduct a modified war patrol, returning to New London 28 September. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor found *GRAMPUS* undergoing post-shakedown overhaul at Portsmouth, N.H., but soon ready for war on 22 December, she sailed for the Pacific, reaching Pearl Harbor on 1 February 1942 via the Panama Canal and Mare Island.

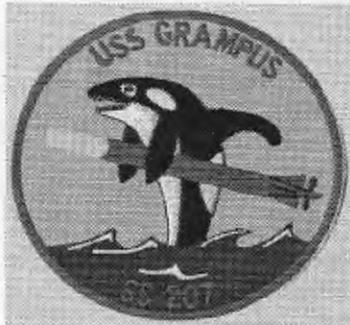
On her first war patrol (8 February - 4 April 1942) *GRAMPUS* sank an 8,636-ton tanker, the only kill of her short career, and reconnoitered Kwajalein and Wotje atolls, later the scene of bloody but successful landings. *GRAMPUS'* second and third patrols were marred by a heavy number of antisubmarine patrol craft off Truk and poor visibility as heavy rains haunted her path along the Luzon and Mindoro coasts. Both patrols terminated at Fremantle, Australia.

Taking aboard four coast watchers, the courageous men who were stationed on Japanese-held islands to radio back vital information on shipping, military buildup, and weather, *GRAMPUS* sailed on 2 October 1942 for her fourth war patrol. Despite the presence of Japanese destroyers, she landed the coast watchers on Vella Lavella and Choiseul Islands while conducting her patrol. This patrol, during the height of the Guadalcanal campaign, took *GRAMPUS* into waters teeming with Japanese men-of-war. She sighted a total of four enemy cruisers and 79 destroyers in five different convoys. Although she conducted a series of aggressive attacks on the Japanese ships, receiving 104 depth charges for



her work, *GRAMPUS* was not credited with sinking any ships. She returned to Australia 23 November.

GRAMPUS' fifth war patrol (14 December 1942 - 19 January 1943) took her across access lanes frequented by Japanese



submarines and other ships. Air and water patrol over this area was extremely heavy and although she conducted several daring attacks on the 41 contacts she sighted, *GRAMPUS* again was denied a kill.

In company with *GRAYBACK*, *GRAMPUS* departed Brisbane on 11 February 1943 for her sixth war patrol from which she failed to return; the manner of her loss still remains a mystery today. Japanese seaplanes reported sinking a submarine on 18 February in *GRAMPUS*' patrol area, but *GRAYBACK* reported seeing *GRAMPUS* in that same area 4 March. On 5 March two Japanese destroyers, themselves lost 2 days later, conducted an attack in Blackett Strait, where a heavy oil slick was sighted the following day, indicating that *GRAMPUS* may have been lost there in a night attack or gun battle against the DD's. When repeated attempts failed to contact *GRAMPUS*, the valiant submarine was reluctantly declared missing and presumed lost.



Submarine Trivia

Some of these are rather ambiguous. Some are questions no one could probably answer. And, some are very incomplete — at least as far as the answer. But, they're all about submarines.

Questions:

1. Who is the first fourth generation submariner?
2. Which submarine "ran out of gas?"
3. Which single submarine accident claimed the most lives?
4. What was the fastest submarine ever built?
5. What does the movie "The Sound of Music" have to do with submarines?
6. Who was the first recorded submarine casualty?
7. Who, as a submarine captain, sank the most ships?
8. The United States briefly experimented with a submarine launched airplane. What became of it?
9. Only four countries are known to me to have launched torpedoes in wartime situations since the end of WWII. Can you name them?

Answers are on page 15

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Submarines . . . of Today

India Upgrades Diesel Boats

India Looks to Modify Scorpene Subs With MESMA AIP Propulsion

From Defense Industry Daily, 1 Mar 06

Back on September 19, 2005, DID offered in-depth coverage on India's \$3.5 billion local-build deal for 6 SSK Scorpene Class ultra-quiet diesel-electric submarines between 2012-1017, as well as the present status and future plans of the rival Chinese and Pakistani submarine programs. Now the Times of India reports that India's Navy wants the last 3 submarines to include DCN's MESMA air-independent propulsion systems, changing them from CM-2000 to AM-2000 Scorpene designation.

What's MESMA, why does it matter, who else builds AIPs, and how does MESMA compare?

The MESMA anaerobic system will change the Scorpene's ability to operate underwater for sustained periods without having to surface. An AM-2000 is still not in the same league as SSN nuclear subs which can do this indefinitely, but it is a substantial improvement that reduces "indiscretion time" on the surface where the sub can be spotted by radar, and also heard more easily by underwater sensors. A CM-2000 Scorpene can operate underwater

for 4-6 days without surfacing or snorkelling to get oxygen to recharge its batteries. An AM-2000 Scorpene, in contrast, will be able to operate for up to 18 days, depending on variables like speed, etc.

Basically, the MESMA approach is closed-cycle steam turbine derivative of French nuclear-propulsion experience using non-nuclear steam generation. A conventional Rankine-cycle turbo-alternator is powered by steam generated from the combustion of ethanol (grain alcohol) and stored oxygen at a pressure of 60 atmospheres. This pressure-firing allows exhaust carbon dioxide to be expelled overboard at any depth without an exhaust compressor.

Each MESMA system costs around \$50-60 million, as they require adding a new 8.3 meter (27 foot), 305 tonne hull section to the submarine. The resulting AM-2000 Scorpene AIP is about 70m long and displaces 1,870t. Note that per DID's earlier article, Pakistan third Khalid Class (Agosta 90B) sub will also be equipped with MESMA.

Other AIP systems around the world include Kockums' Stirling-cycle AIPs fitted to Gotland, Sodermanland, and Nacken Class submarines; parent firm HDW also has its own design for U209, U212, and U214 Class vessels that uses Siemens' PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane). Fellow member of the German Submarine Consortium Thyssen Nordseewerke has a closed-cycle diesel (CCD) system that uses liquid oxygen, diesel fuel, and argon gas, and the Dutch RDM submarine shipyard has advertised a "Spectre" CCD.

An article in Undersea Warfare Magazine notes that: "although MESMA can provide higher output power than the other alternatives, its inherent efficiency is the lowest of the four AIP candidates, and its rate of oxygen consumption is correspondingly higher."

Dive Tower Work Leaps Forward

By JO3 Steven Feller, *The Dolphin*, 9 Mar 06

Those who've recently been up on the hill near Naval Submarine School may have noticed a Herculean change in the landscape. What was previously a wooded area has given way to an Everest of boulders and a crater below. All this work is being done to bring to realization a new dive tower aboard Naval Submarine Base New London.

After SUBASE, SUBSCOL, the Submarine Learning Center and Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northeast broke ground on the new dive tower Nov. 2, the Minneapolis-based Mortenson Construction company began blasting the site to make way for the much needed facility.

According to Dive Tower Project Manager Bob Howland, Public Works Department, a lot of work has already been completed and a lot will be done to reach end-of-March goals.



Although this is a photo of the old Pearl Harbor escape training tower, the image brings back memories to every "boat" sailor who underwent training at New London and requal at Pearl.

in the ceiling of the room opens up to the bottom of the tower. As the Sailors sit in the room, water fills the tower. Once the Sailors are ready, the hatch opens and the Sailors rapidly ascend to the top of the tower. This ascension simulates what it would be like to escape from a submarine.

SUBASE still has a dive tower on Lower Base, however it has not been in use since the early '80s. According to Navy leaders, the majority of those in the submarine force haven't experienced pressurized escape training.

The tower will take two years and more than \$13 million to build. Another \$4 million will be spent getting it operational and ready for use. It is scheduled to open its doors in the summer of 2008. But for now, Howland said there are significant short-term goals that need to be met.

"By early summer, we hope to have structural steel up and then people will be able to see the full building layout," he said. "Our goal by next winter is to have the structure enclosed with a roof on top so we can do interior work."



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"We've completed the blasting and now we are laying the groundwork for the concrete structure. We are also working on all of our utilities," said Howland. "The end-month goal is to have the footing for the tower in place and begin construction on one of the main column line walls of the facility. This column line wall is an interior wall and ties the two-story office complex and four-story dive tower together.

"We will also continue with site utilities," he added.

Pressurized dive training is considered one of the highlights of submarine training. Underneath the tower, there is a room where Sailors sit wearing Mark 10 Submarine Escape and Immersion Equipment (SEIE) suits. A hatch

The After Battery Rat

by
Dex Armstrong



You remember them ... those ton and a half monsters that took the annual production of thirty-five sheep to make. Those thick black rascals with black plastic buttons the size of poker chips. The issue coats that drove shore duty chief petty officers stark raving nuts if they caught you with the collar turned up or your gahdam hands in your pockets.

"Hey, you rubber sock, get those gahdam hands outta them damn pockets! Didn't they issue you black leather gloves?"

So, you took your hands out of your pockets and risked digital frostbite rather than face whatever the Navy had in store for violators of the 'No Gahdam Hands In Peacoat Pockets' policy. There's probably a special barracks in Hell full of old E-3s caught hitchhiking in sub-zero weather with hands in peacoat pockets.

As for those leather gloves, one glove always went missing.

"Son, where in the hell are the gloves we issued you?"

We??? I don't remember this nasty, ugly bastard being at Great Lakes when the 'jocks and socks' petty officers were throwing my initial issue seabag at me and yelling, "Move it!!"

As for the gloves, once you inadvertently leave one glove on a wh*** house night table or on the seat of a Greyhound bus, the remaining glove is only useful if a tank rolls over the hand that fit the lost glove.

In the days long ago, a navy spec. peacoat weighed about the same as a flat car load of cinder blocks. When it rained, it absorbed water until your spine warped, your shins cracked and your ankles split. Five minutes standing in the rain waiting on a bus and you felt like you were piggy-backing the statue of liberty.

When a peacoat got wet, it smelled a lot like sheep dip. It had that wet wool smell, times three. It weighed three and a half tons and smelled like 'Mary had a little lamb's' gym shorts.

You know how damn heavy a late '50s peacoat was? Well, they had little metal chains sewn in the back of the collar to hang them up by. Like diluted navy coffee, sexual sensitivity instruction, comfortable air-conditioned topside security bungalows, patent leather plastic-looking shoes and wearing raghats configured to look like bidet bowls, the peacoat spec. has been watered down to the point you could hang them up with dental floss. In the old days, peacoat buttons and grocery cart wheels were interchangeable parts. The gear issued by the U.S. Navy was tough as hell, bluejacket-tested clothing with the durability of rhino hide and construction equipment tires.

Peacoats came with wide, heavy collars. In a cold, hard wind, you could turn that wide collar up to cover your neck and it was like poking your head in a tank turret.

The things were warm, but I never thought they were long enough. Standing out in the wind in those 'big-legged britches' (bell bottoms), the wind whistled up your cuffs and took away body warmth like a thief. But, they were perfect to pull over you for a blanket when sleeping on a bus or a bus terminal bench.

Every sailor remembers stretching out on one of those oak bus station pews with his raghat over his face, his head up against his AWOL bag and covered with his peacoat. There was always some 'SP' who had not fully evolved from apehood, who poked you with his billy bat and said,

"Hey, YOU!! Get up! Waddya think yer doin? You wanna sleep, get a gahdam room!"

Peacoats were lined with quilted satin or rayon. I never realized it at the time, but sleeping on bus seats and station benches would be the closest I would ever get to sleeping on satin sheets.

Early in my naval career, a career-hardened (lifer) first class gunner's mate told me to put my ID and liberty card in the inside pocket of my peacoat.

"Put the sonuvabitches in that gahdam inside pocket and pin the damn thing closed with a diaper pin. Then, take your heavy folding money and put it in your sock. If you do that, learn to never take your socks off in a cathouse. Them damn dockside pickpockets pat 'cha down for a lumpy wallet and they can relieve you of said wallet so fast you'll never know you've been snookered.

Only a dumbass idiot will clam-fold his wallet and tuck it in his thirteen button bellbottoms. Every kid above the age of six in Italy knows how to lift a wallet an idiot pokes in his pants. Those little bastards learned to pick sailor's pockets in kindergarten.

Rolling bluejackets is the national sport in Italy."

In Washington DC, they have a wonderful marble and granite plaza honoring the United States Navy. Every man or woman who served this nation in a naval uniform, owes it to himself or herself to visit this memorial and take their families.

It honors all naval service and any red-blooded American bluejacket or officer will feel the gentle warmth of pride his or her service is honored within this truly magical place.

The focal point of this memorial is a bronze statue of a lone American sailor. No crow on his sleeve tells you that he is non-rated. And, there are further indications that suggest maybe, once upon a time, the sculpturer himself may have once been an E-3 raghat.

The lad has his collar turned up and his hands in his pockets.

I'm sure the Goddess of the Main Induction nearly wets her panties laughing at the old, crusty chiefs standing there with veins popping out on their old, wrinkled necks, muttering,

"Look at that idiot sonuvabitch standing there with his collar up and his gahdam hands in his pockets. In my day, I would have ripped that jerk a new one!"

Ah, the satisfied glow of E-3 revenge.

Peacoats... One of God's better inventions.



Answers (from page 11):

1. Brad Lipscomb (USS Buffalo, 1996) - father John Cochon (Thomas Jefferson 196?), grandfather E.T. Sullivan (1940?), great-grandfather Ben Bloesi (A-3, 1919)
2. The R-19 (SS-91) in the 20's. The crew rigged broomsticks and sheets as sails to get home.
3. The loss of the French Surcouf in 1943, killing 159 men.
4. The "Anchar" (NATO Papa Class), at 47+ knots. This speed wrecked the propulsion train from vibration.
5. The father, Baron von Trapp, was the leading Austrian-Hungarian tonnage submarine captain.
6. Englishman John Day, who sank with his Maria in 1774.
7. Kaptainleutnant Lothar von Arnauld de la Periere, who sank 196 ships for a total of 456, 216 tons in the U-35 & U-139.
8. The S-1 used a small aircraft housed in a hangar on the deck. When it was deemed too unwieldy, the plan was scrapped. The hangar, however, was salvaged and used to make the McCann Rescue Chamber, which was used to rescue the crew of the Squalus in 1939.
9. Answers:
 1. Great Britain — sank the Argentine cruiser Generalissimo Belgrano during the Falklands War.
 2. Argentina — one of their Type 209 class submarines conducted 3 unsuccessful torpedo attacks, two against surface ships and one reportedly against a submerged contact.
 3. Pakistan — sank the Indian frigate INS Kulkri during the war between India and Pakistan.
 4. Israel — INS Tanin unsuccessfully attacked an Egyptian Sloop Class frigate in a battle off Alexandria during the Six Day War. Also noted, they also conducted an insertion operation during that time and were attacked by Egyptian forces while waiting to pick up the six seals they had delivered.

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