



The "MidWatch"



April 2009
Volume 15 - Issue 4

The monthly newsletter of
Perch Base - USSVI
Phoenix, Arizona

<http://perch-base.org>

What's "Below Decks" in the Midwatch

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Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol

APRIL ETERNAL PATROLS

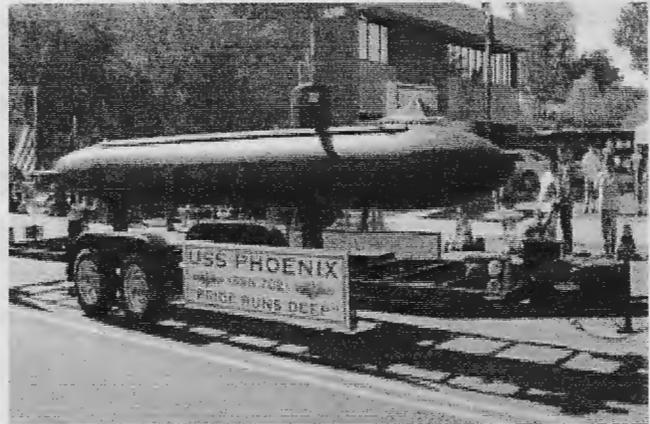
USS PICKEREL I (SS-177)	03 Apr 1943	74 Lost
Japanese Surface Attack off Honshu, Japan		
USS SNOOK I (SS-279)	08 Apr 1945	84 Lost
Unknown causes off Formosa		
USS THRESHER II (SSN-593)	10 Apr 1963	129 Lost
Operational off New England Coast		
USS S49 (SS-160)	04 Apr 1926	4 Lost
Battery Explosion, SubBase New London, Boat survived		
USS GRENADIER I (SS-210)	22 Apr 1943	4 POWs
Scuttled after Japanese Air Attack, Malay Peninsula		
USS BONEFISH II (SS-582)	24 Apr 1988	3 Lost
Fire and Explosion off Florida, Boat decommissioned		

NEXT MEETING

12 noon, Saturday, April 11, 2009
American Legion Post #105
3534 W. Calavar Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85053

2009 Booster and Float Support Members

Perch Base, USSVI, cannot support its on-going operations and provide funds for the Base's float activities on dues alone. While the Base tries to develop activities to raise additional funds, we salute the members, listed below, who have supported the base with additional contributions. Shipmates, we salute you!



These are the 2009 Contributors. Have you given you support?

Jerry Allston, Reynaldo Altos, Gary Bartlett, Ken Becker, Walt Blomgren, Bradley Butler, Jim Denzien, Howard Doyle, Joe Errante, John Graves, Dave Harnish, Stephen Hough, Mike Keating, Darrell Lambert, DeWayne Lober, Burtis Loftin, George Marions, Ray Marshall, David Meese, Angus McPherson, Alan Miller, Tim Moore, James W. Newman, Craig Olson, Stan Reinhold, Robie Robinson, Sandy Rud, Frank Rumbaugh (in memory), Garry Shumann, Rick Simmons, William Tippet, Forrest Watson, Donald Whitehead, Ed Wolf, Jerry Yowell, John Zaichkin, Ron Zomok.



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Sailing Orders



APRIL MEETING

The April Perch Base meeting, and future meetings, will be at 12 noon and on the second Saturday of each month and at the American Legion Post #105, located at 3534 W. Calavar Rd., Phoenix, AZ. This is 1/2 block northwest of the intersection of 35th Ave. and Thunderbird.

September 8 - 12, 2009

Don't wait! The next USSVI convention is right around the corner and this time, it practically next door. San Diego Base is hosting -- an easy few hours drive AND gas prices are low!

But the big news about this convention is that it's a joint venture with the *ISA-USA (International) Convention*. This is the first time (in recent memory) that the International is meeting in the US and the very first time, a joint convention is held.

Just think! Smooze with not just US boat sailors, but German, French, Russian and English.

Check the internet link just below to go to the special convention web site.

<http://www.ussvisandiego.org/Convention2009/index.htm>

Foundation Shipmates



These organizations and individuals have contributed to the Perch Base Foundation and deserve special recognition as "Foundations Shipmates." Perch Base members are encouraged to use these organizations as a way of saying, "thanks."

Avondale Toyota

Larry Harker Auto Repair Inc.

Fairings - Etc

White Shears Flowers

Frank Bono Metal Design

Southwest Steel Sales LLC

United Parcel Service (UPS)

David L. Meese, Jr. CPA PLC



The following pages contain the Perch Base Bylaws as modified to comply with the USSVI National Bylaws. The Base must approve these, by vote at the next (April) meeting so the Base Officers can certify to the District Commander that Perch Base is in compliance.

Please read these Bylaws and be prepared to vote at the next Base meeting.

**ARIZONA SUBMARINE VETERANS, PERCH BASE
OF THE
UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS, INCORPORATED
(Chartered June 20, 1995)**

BYLAWS

(Revised)

REFERENCES

- (a) **United State Submarine Veterans, Inc. – Constitution (Latest Revision)**
- (b) **United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. – Bylaws (latest Revision)**
- (c) **United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. – Policies and Procedures (Latest Revision)**
- (d) **United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. – Perch Base Charter**

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1. The name of this chapter shall be: "ARIZONA SUBMARINE VETERANS, PERCH BASE of the UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS, INC."

Section 2. For the purpose of these bylaws, the term "organization" shall be synonymous with "ARIZONA SUBMARINE VETERANS, PERCH BASE of the UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS, INC."

Section 3. The spoken name of the organization may be shortened to: ARIZONA SUBVETS, AZ SUBVETS or SUBVETS. The full name of the organization as defined in Article 1 Section 1 above should be used in all formal correspondence.

ARTICLE II – RULES OF ORDER

The general procedure of meetings of this organization shall be in keeping with the normal parliamentary procedure set down by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

ARTICLE III – PURPOSE/CREED

Section 1. To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and to its Constitution.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base is a chartered unit of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. To be a member of the Base, membership in good standing with the "United States Submarine Veterans, Incorporated" is required.

Section 2. A member is considered "in good standing" if both National and Base dues have been paid for the current year.

Section 3. Regular Members: Regular membership is restricted to U.S. personnel who have been designated "Qualified in Submarines" by the U.S. Navy, or anyone who is a regular member of the U.S. Submarine Veterans of WWII.

Section 4. Associate Members: Qualifications for Associate Membership is defined in the Constitution of the USSVI, Article VII, Section 5. Associate Members may vote on Base matters but may only hold the position as Secretary and/or Treasurer as an elected office.

Section 5. Honorary Members: The Base from time to time finds it necessary to honor an individual for service to the base that is above and beyond the normal course of business. The term of the honorary membership shall normally be for one year. This class of membership shall include access to the base publication with no other rights or privileges.

ARTICLE V – DUES

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall annually evaluate and may adjust Base dues and Life Membership dues/fees as required to compensate for inflation and the needs of the Base.

Section 2. Base members shall pay National dues to their Primary Base who shall forward dues to the National Office. Exception: After January 1, all delinquent members may be directly invoiced for dues by the National Membership Chair or his representative.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected officers of the Base will be: Commander, Vice Commander, Secretary, and Treasurer. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same individual, and these two positions may be filled by either Regular or Associate members.

Section 2. The term of office for the Base Commander will be two years. The term of office for all other elected or appointed positions shall be for one year.

Section 3. All officers may succeed themselves in office.

Section 4. The term of office for elected officers will begin immediately after the business meeting at which the elections were conducted.

Section 5. Appointed officers may include: Chaplin, Historian, Parliamentarian, Legal Officer, Editor of the Newsletter, Committee Chairmanships, Chief of the Boat, and Storekeeper.

Section 6. The term of office for appointed officers shall begin immediately after confirmation by the Base Board of Directors.

Section 7. No officer shall be paid a salary for services rendered on behalf of the Base.

ARTICLE VII – EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Executive Board of Directors shall consist of the elected officers of the base and the immediate past Base Commander.

Section 2. The Executive Board of Directors shall establish policy for the base.

ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the elected officers and duly appointed officers and chairmen of the base.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall have control and general management of the affairs and business of the Base.

Section 3. Each member of the Board of Directors shall have one vote except for the Base Commander who may only vote in the event of a tie vote in which case the Base Commander's vote will carry the decision.

Section 4. The Board of Directors will develop an annual plan (calendar) and budget for the Base each October for the next fiscal year and submit the annual plan and budget to the Base membership for approval each November.

ARTICLE IX - BASE BUSINESS MEETING

Section 1. Base meetings shall be held monthly at a location to be determined by the Base Board of Directors and/or membership.

Section 2. The Senior Base Officer present at the Base Business Meeting shall be the presiding officer. The order of seniority is as follows: Commander, Vice Commander, Secretary, Treasurer.

Section 3. The March Business Meeting shall validate the Base elections and report the results for Base Officers.

Section 4. The Order of Business for the Base Business Meeting shall be:

- a. Call to Order.
- b. Invocation.
- c. Pledge of Allegiance.
- d. Reciting of the Creed
- e. Moment of silence for Departed Shipmates and/or tolling of the lost boats for that month.
- f. Reading and acceptance of the minutes of the previous Base Business Meeting.
- g. Reading and acceptance of the Treasurer's report.
- h. Introduction of National Officers in attendance by name and Base (if applicable).
- i. Introduction of new members or guests in attendance (if applicable).
- j. Board of Directors Report by Base Commander.
- k. Report of the Vice-Commander (if applicable).
- l. Report of the COB (if applicable).
- m. Committee reports as necessary
- n. Old Business.
- o. New Business.
- p. Good of the order.
- q. 50/50 Drawing

- r. Swearing in of Officers for the new term.
- s. Closing of the Base Business Meeting.
- t. Benediction

ARTICLE X — BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Section 1. The Base Board of Directors meeting and Special Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be conducted and consider any such organizational business as shall come before them. The senior Base Officer present shall preside over the Board of Directors meetings and Special meetings of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall meet as required at a time and place as the board shall decide.

Section 2. Special Meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the Base Commander at any time, or by three members of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Notice of Special Meetings shall be given by service upon each member of the Board of Directors, in person, by postal mail, email to his last known address, or by phone, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting (if possible), specifying the time and place of the meeting and the purpose of the meeting.

ARTICLE XI — DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. BASE COMMANDER

The duties of the Base Commander shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. Act as the Chief Executive Officer and the Chairman of the Board of Directors.
- b. Cause to be called all regular and special meetings of the organization.
- c. Preside over all regular and special meetings of the organization.
- d. Enforce the USSVI Constitution, Bylaws, and Base Bylaws.
- e. Direct and supervise the operation of the organization.
- f. Submit to the Board of Directors for confirmation, all appointed officers and committee chairmanships.
- g. Be responsible for the promulgation of all pertinent information to the membership of the organization.
- h. Work up, keep current, and pass on immediately to his relief a "Turn Over" folder, including all official correspondence, records, and official materials assigned to his care.
- i. Be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the "Nominations Committee".

Section 2. VICE-COMMANDER

The duties of the Vice-Commander shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. Assist the Base Commander in the discharge of his duties.
- b. Assume the duties of the Commander in the event of his absence, illness, or call to eternal patrol.
- c. Execute the powers and authority of the Commander, when required, in the absence of the Commander.
- d. Serve as a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Board of Directors.
- e. Work up, keep current and pass on, immediately to his relief a "Turn Over" folder, including all official correspondence, records, and official materials assigned to his care.

Section 4. SECRETARY

The duties of the Base Secretary shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. Officiate when required in Arizona Submarine Veterans, Perch Base matters in the absence of the Base Commander, Base Vice-Commander.
- b. Serve as a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Board of Directors.
- c. Be the clerk of the organization.
- d. Keep permanent records as required by the Articles of Corporation, the National Constitution, and Bylaws and these Bylaws.
- e. Keep permanent records of the proceedings of all Base meetings and of the Board of Directors.
- f. Insure that only members in good standing vote on organizational business.

- g. Serve as the official organization correspondent, forwarding to officers and committee chairman such correspondence as may be appropriate to the performance of their duties
- h. Work up, keep current and pass on, immediately to his relief a "Turn Over" folder, including all official correspondence, records, and official materials assigned to his care.

Section 5. TREASURER

The duties of the Base Treasurer shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. Serve as a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Board of Directors.
- b. Be the Chief Financial Officer of the organization.
- c. Be the custodian of all financial records of the organization.
- d. Receive and be responsible for the collection of all moneys due and payable to the organization.
- e. Have custody of all organization funds, and shall provide for their safekeeping, retention, disbursement, and investment in a manner acceptable to the Board of Directors.
- f. Make such reports and returns as are required by the National Organization.
- g. Maintain accounts appropriate to the structure and activities of the organization and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- h. Work up, keep current, and pass on immediately to his relief a "Turn Over" folder, including all official correspondence, records, and official material assigned to his care.

ARTICLE XII — COMMITTEES

Section 1. DUTIES and DEFINITIONS

- A. Duties of committees: committees function for the benefit of the organization and at the direction of the Board of Directors. All Committee Chairmen and all committee members, with the exception of those members listed by the position they hold within the organization, must first be approved or confirmed by the Board of Directors before the committee can operate.
- B. Definitions of committees:
 - 1. Standing Committees: Permanent committees that by their very nature require continued continuity.
 - 2. Non Permanent Committees:
 - a. Annual Committees; Committees which shall be re-established at the start of each elective year.
 - b. Special Committees; Committees appointed as necessary, by the Commander for a specific purpose.

Section 2. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- A. The Membership Committee shall be a Standing Committee.
- B. The duties of the Membership Committee shall include but not be limited to:
 - a. Receive applications from new members.
 - b. Determine eligibility requirements of each applicant.
 - c. Maintain a permanent record of applications and membership, via the National data base and Base roster.

Section 3. LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

- A. The Long Range Planning Committee shall be a Standing Committee.
- B. The Long Range Planning Committee shall be chaired by a member appointed by the Base Board of Directors and shall have as regular members other members deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.
- C. The duties of the Long Range Planning Committee will include, but not be limited to, conducting studies as requested by the Board of Directors to further the fraternal purpose and creed of the organization.

Section 4. PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

- A. The Public Relations and Publicity Committee shall be a Standing Committee.
- B. The Public Relations and Publicity Committee shall be chaired by a member, who is picked for his qualities of experience and enthusiasm, and nominated by the Base Commander and approved by the Board of Directors and have as its members other members as deemed necessary by Chairman of the committee; such nominated members to be approved by the Board of Directors.
- C. The duties of the Public Relations and Publicity Committee shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Publicity promoting a positive image of the organization.
 - b. Assisting all officers of the organization in developing promotional materials to advertise the organization and organizational events.

Section 5. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

- A. The Nominations Committee shall be a Standing Committee.
- B. The Nominations Committee shall be chaired by a member appointed by the Commander and approved by the Board of Directors and will consist of the Immediate Past Commander, and other members deemed necessary by the Chairman of the Nominations Committee; such member's nominations to be approved by the Board of Directors; except persons running for election or re-election to a Base Office may not serve on this committee.
- C. The duties of the Nominations Committee will include:
 - a. Issue a "Call for Nominations" of eligible candidates for Base Office by publishing said call in the Base Publication and as needed via other means of electronic notification by the organization.
 - b. Forward names of all eligible nominees to the Base Secretary for ballot preparation and mailing if necessary.
 - c. In those cases where no nominees have been presented, or all candidates have withdrawn, accept names in nomination, of eligible members, from the floor of the Base's March Business Meeting.

Section 6. BASE HISTORIAN COMMITTEE

The Base Historian Committee shall be a standing committee. The Commander shall nominate the Chairman and the Chairman shall nominate the committee members; both to be confirmed by the Board of Directors.

- A. The committee shall consist of a Historian. This position may be held by a single member if expedient and beneficial to the organization.
- B. The purpose of the Historian is to document the ongoing history of Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base.
- C. The Historian Committee Chairman may nominate additional committee members as needed to fulfill the purposes of the committee, which nominated members shall be approved by the Board of Directors.
- D. The duties of the Historian Committee shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Periodically publish a request through Base communication channels requests for Base record materials.
 - b. Provide materials as needed for the preparation of Historical documents.

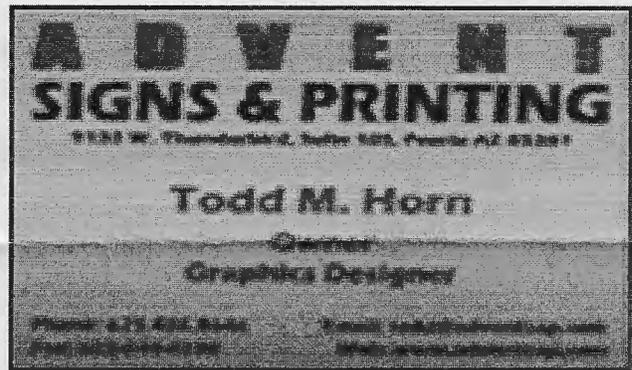
Section 7. CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

- A. The Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) Committee shall be a standing committee
- B. The Chairman shall be nominated by the Base Commander and approved by the Board of Directors. The committee shall consist of the Chairman and the Immediate Past Base Commander. Additional members who are knowledgeable of the USSVI Constitution and Base Bylaws may be nominated, as required, by the Chairman for confirmation by the Board of Directors.
- C. The duties of the C & B Committee Chairman and the committee shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Issue a Call, for Bylaws proposed amendments by publishing said call in the Base's Publication.
 - b. Ensure the Proposed Amendments:

- c. Are complete statements which will stand on their own merit.
 - i. Clearly state the intent of the author and the section of the organization policy affected.
 - ii. Reflect the estimated or actual cost, if any, to the organization.
 - iii. Are legible, limited to one agenda item, and conform to procedures as established by the Committee Chairman.
 - iv. Are signed and dated by the author.
- d. When proposed amendments to the Base Bylaws are received for review, ensure there are neither duplicated nor frivolous submissions on identical subjects, and place them in the proper wording for inclusion into the Bylaws if passed. In the event of conflict between two or more proposed amendments, determine if they are essentially the same and compose wording without change to the original intent and make the decision as to whether one or both proposed amendments are acceptable to be placed on the ballot. The committee shall make a conscious effort to identify and remedy any proposed amendment that may cause a ripple effect.
- e. Upon completion of review and with the committee's comments attached, submit proposed amendments to amend the Bylaws to the Base Secretary in time sufficient for the Board of Directors to review and approve the proposed amendments for preparation of the Base's Ballot.

Section 8. VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- A. The Veterans Affairs Committee shall be a standing committee. The Base Commander shall nominate the Committee Chairman. Additional members may be nominated as required by the Chairman and both shall be confirmed by the Board of Directors.
- B. The duties of the Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman shall include, but be not limited to:
 - 1. Maintain liaison with the Veterans Administration (VA) through the various media available to him and personal contact as required with the VA and the USSVI Veterans Affairs Chairman.



- 2. Maintain a summarized column in the Base Publication of items of importance for the membership regarding their Veterans Benefits and changes there to with the details available to the Base Veterans Administration Point of Contact.
- 3. Coordinate with the USSVI Veterans Affairs Officer to ensure information is received by the base membership.

Section 9. AWARDS COMMITTEE

- A. The Awards Committee shall be a standing committee. The Base Commander shall nominate the Chairman to be approved by the Board of Directors.
- B. The Awards Committee Chairman shall nominate committee members as needed to fulfill the purposes of the committee and submit their names for approval of the Board of Directors.
- C. The duties of the Awards Committee Chairman shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. The Chairman shall widely publish a timely call for each set of Award candidates through all regular Base communication channels, providing criteria and timeline information.
 - b. The Chairman shall establish a process and timeline to determine Award winners at a time prior to the Base's Awards Dinner.

- D. The Awards Committee shall review, as needed, if any other awards should be considered, including special awards, etc.
- E. The Awards Committee shall determine the appropriate item for presentation to the recipient.

SECTION 10: AUDIT COMMITTEE

- A. The Audit Committee shall be a special committee.
- B. No less than 30 days prior to the Base's March meeting, the Base Commander will nominate at least two additional members to the Board for confirmation to carry out the duties of the committee.
- C. The Base Treasurer will provide copies of the current year financial records in a suitable format for inspection by the committee.
- D. The Base Storekeeper will provide copies of the current year financial records in a suitable format for inspection by the committee as requested.
- E. The duties of the Committee are to:
 - a. Review the records and recommendations of the last audit
 - b. Review the financial records of the Base Treasurer.
 - c. Review the financial records of the Base Storekeeper
 - d. Provide a written report to the Base Commander no later than 15 days prior to the Base's March Business Meeting.

ARTICLE XIII — AMENDMENTS

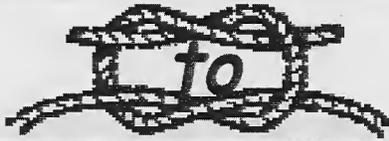
- A. Any member in good standing may submit proposed amendments to amend these Bylaws by forwarding the proposed amendments to the Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.
- B. These bylaws shall be amended by simple majority vote or, where appropriate, the plurality vote shall rule at a Business Meeting of the organization.
- C. Amendments, which are passed, will become effective at the close of the Business Meeting in which they were voted on.

ARTICLE XIV — LADIES AUXILIARY

- A. Effective September 1, 2003 a Ladies Auxiliary to the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. was re-established and shall be known as "Ladies Auxiliary of the United States Submarine Veterans, Incorporated.", AKA "SubVettes"
- B. The Ladies Auxiliary shall be governed by the National Bylaws of the USSVI.
- C. The Ladies Auxiliary may adopt their own Bylaws, however, they are subordinate to and must not conflict with the National Bylaws or these Bylaws.
- D. Membership in the Ladies Auxiliary shall be limited to USSVI or SVWWII member's Wives, Widows, Sisters, Mothers and Daughters not less than 16 years of age.
- E. Each Ladies Auxiliary member shall be permitted to sponsor one female member not covered by the requirements listed in paragraph D.

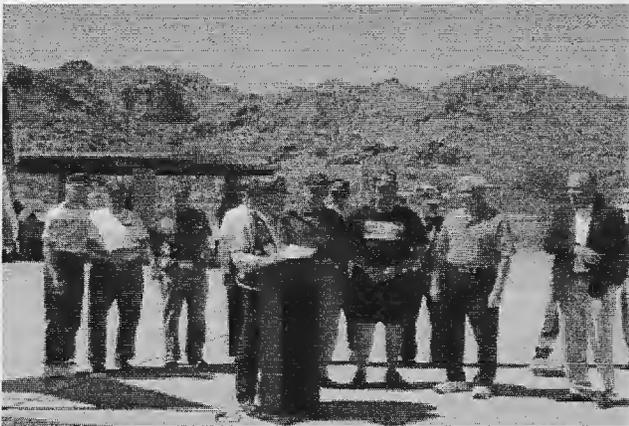


Shipmate



Shipmate

LATE BREAKING!! - Photos of the Perch Base's spring picnic and Holland Club induction. See the Base web page <http://perch-base.org> for details.



CBO Report about TriCare for Life Reductions – FALSE! FALSE! FALSE!

Submitted by: John P. Dudas on 3/11/2009

The letter below deals with the falsehoods concerning the CBO report and all the threats about TFL and other changes to Military Healthcare. It is from Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, and was sent to one of our Subvets who sent it to me.

Please read and put these falsehoods to bed.

Thank you for contacting me regarding rumored cuts in benefit programs for military retirees, including TRICARE for Life. Currently, a wealth of false and misleading information is being distributed on this matter, and I welcome the opportunity to explain the source of the confusion.

I am aware of several chain emails, online discussion boards, blogs, and even articles in well-intentioned veterans' publications that imply that President Obama and Congress plan on eliminating TRICARE for Life. The insinuations put forth by these sources are false.

The source of these stories is a report issued by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), entitled Budget Options Volume 1: Health Care, released in December 2008. Before jumping to conclusions about the report itself, however, it is important to know exactly what the CBO is.

CBO is a nonpartisan federal agency, tasked with providing Congress with cost estimates for the many legislative proposals considered each year. It also periodically offers Congress suggestions for adjusting federal spending. CBO is an information gathering body for Members of Congress. Its recommendations about the budget are completely non binding; and its officers do not draft actual policy, legislation, or law.

The Budget Options report in question offers a total of 115 options for reducing (or, in some cases, increasing) federal spending on health care, only three of which relate to TRICARE. These options are merely suggestions, not policy statements or actual legislation. Reports such as this one are routine, and very few options or recommendations made by CBO are typically acted upon. President Obama has not indicated support for the three recommendations in this report related to TRICARE, nor has any Member of Congress, to the best of my knowledge. Any suggestion that the Administration is affiliated with this report ignores the fact that it was drafted by the CBO - which, again, is an advisory body of the legislative branch, not the executive branch.

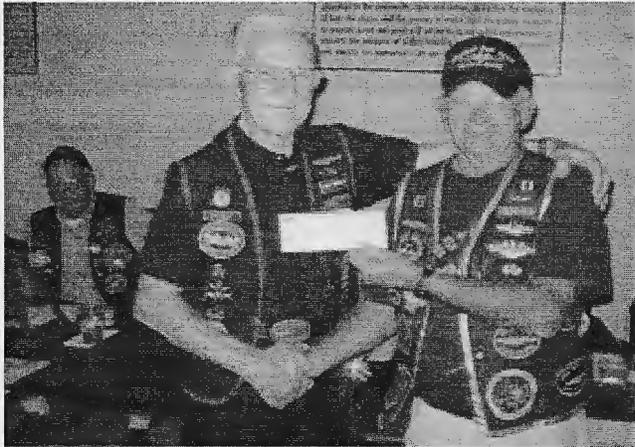
You may also be interested to know that both the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) have issued statements condemning the aforementioned rumors that are being perpetuated through these chain emails. I hope that you have found this letter informative, and I encourage you to share this information with members of your community who are concerned about issues relating to military retirees. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, please be assured of my continued commitment to protecting the various interests of all those who have fought tirelessly to protect our cherished freedoms.

Thank you again for sharing your views and concerns with me. I hope you will continue to visit my website at <http://lieberman.senate.gov> for updated news about my work on behalf of Connecticut and the nation. Please contact me if you have any additional questions or comments about our work in Congress.

Sincerely,

Joseph I. Lieberman
UNITED STATES SENATOR
<http://lieberman.senate.gov>

Shipmate Billy Grieves Gives to Perch Base



WWII Pigboater and Perch Base member Billy Grieves presents a substantial check from the WWII Sub Veterans to newly-elected Base Commander Jim Denzien for the Perch Base Foundation.

As a personal donation, Shipmate Grieves gives Perch Base a WWII "long glass" that Billy bought just after the war. The telescope – once standard issue on submarines – will be used to raise additional monies for the Perch Base Foundation.



Perch Base Shows the Float at Del Mar Show

Four base members, Walt Blomgren, Jim Denzien, Howard Doyle and Chuck Emmett made the trek to Del Mar, CA for a showing of the Base float at a three-day craft show starting March 20. The proceeds from the event will go to support the Base and for the Save-Our-Sail project.

The group traveled over in two vehicles and three of them (Walt, Howard and Chuck) stayed in Chuck's travel trailer at the show's campground. The three shipmates — none considered "underweight" — dub the trailer the "after battery" for its cozy quarters.



More on Sub/Target collision in Straits of Hormuz.

Submitted by: Pat Householder on 3/24/2009

The fast-attack submarine Hartford crashed into the underside of the amphibious transport dock New Orleans early Friday morning, March 20, while both were underway in the narrow waterway that connects the Persian Gulf with the Indian Ocean. Both ships arrived in Bahrain under their own power on Saturday, although Hartford transited on the surface.

At the time of its collision USS Hartford was at or near periscope depth, about 65 feet below the surface, the Navy said.

Navy photographs show severe damage to Hartford's sail, which cracked on the port side where it joins the ship's hull, apparently because of the impact and strain from colliding with New Orleans.

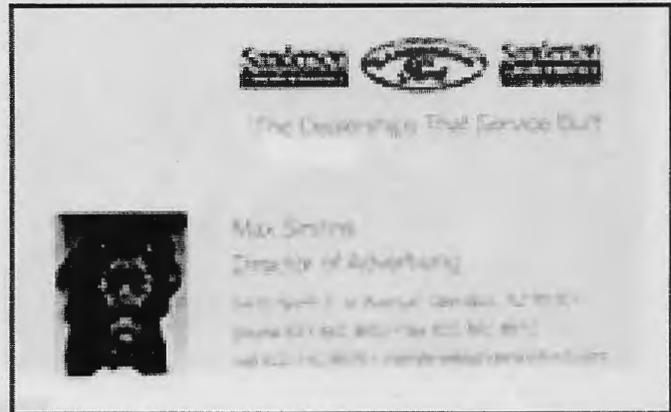
The photos showed a decided rightward lean to the sail, plus damage to the metal and sensors along the leading edge, and a long scrape along its port side.

The ship's crew sewed together vinyl sheets from the ship's galley to cover the sensors inside the sail, a Navy spokesman said.

(COMMENT: The sub obviously got rolled over and the sail is badly warped. 15 men reported minor injuries. There is very little depth for maneuvering at the point of collision and the Hartford likely was sucked up into the bottom of the ship by the sea forces as the New Orleans passed over. The rules of the sea require the submarine to avoid placing itself in situations like this, so I expect the CO to be relieved.)

Click the link for a picture.

<http://www.strategypage.com/gallery/images/uss-hartford-bahrain.jpg>



The Russian Navy Crawls Out Of The Cellar

By James Dunnigan, Strategy Page, March 7, 2009

The Russian Navy has not only shrunk since the end of the Cold War in 1991, but it has also become much less active. In the last three years, only ten of their nuclear subs went to sea, on a combat patrol, each year. Most of the boats going to sea were SSNs (attack subs), the minority were SSBNs (ballistic missile boats). There were more short range training missions, which often lasted a few days, or just a few hours. But the true measure of a fleet is the "combat patrol" or "deployment." In the U.S. Navy, most of these last from 2-6 months. In the last three years, U.S. nuclear subs have carried out ten times as many patrols as their Russian counterparts.

Currently, Russia only has 14 SSBN (nuclear ballistic missile sub) boats in service, and not all of them have a full load of missiles. Some lack full crews, or have key systems in need of repair. Russia has only 14 modern, 7,000 ton, Akula SSNs (nuclear attack subs) in service. These began building in the late 1980s and are roughly comparable to the American Los Angeles class. All of the earlier Russian SSNs are trash, and most have been decommissioned. There are also eight SSGN (nuclear subs carrying cruise missiles) and 20 diesel electric boats. There is a new class of SSGNs under construction, but progress, and promised funding increases, have been slow.

Currently, the U.S. has six of the new, 7,700 ton, Virginia class SSNs in service, four under construction and nine on order. The mainstay of the American submarine force is still the 6,100 ton Los Angeles-class SSN. Sixty-two of these submarines were built, 45 of which remain in front-line service, making it probably the largest class of nuclear submarines that will ever be built. The Seawolf-class of nuclear attack submarines stopped at three from a planned class of twenty-nine. The 8,600 ton Seawolf was designed as a super-submarine, designed to fight the Soviet Navy at its height. Reportedly, it is quieter going 40 kilometers an hour, than the Los Angeles-class submarines are at pier side.

The peak year for Russian nuclear sub patrols was 1984, when there were 230. That number rapidly declined until, in 2002, there were none. Since the late 1990s, the Russian navy has been hustling to try and reverse this decline. But the navy budget, despite recent increases, is not large enough to build new ships to replace the current Cold War era fleet

that is falling apart. The rapid decline of Russia's nuclear submarine fleet needed international help to safely decommission over a hundred obsolete or worn out nuclear subs. This effort has been going on for nearly a decade, and was driven by the Russian threat to just sink their older nuclear subs in the Arctic ocean. That might work with conventional ships, but there was an international uproar over what would happen with all those nuclear reactors sitting on the ocean floor forever. Russia generously offered to accept donations to fund a dismantling program that included safe disposal (of the nuclear reactors).

Since the end of the Cold War in 1991, most of the ship building money has gone into new nuclear subs. Six Akulas have been completed in that time, but the first of a new generation of SSBNs, the Borei class was delayed by technical problems, a new ballistic missile that wouldn't work, and lack of money. The first Borei class boat, after many delays, is finally ready for service, and ended up costing over two billion dollars.

The Russian admirals made their big mistake in the early 1990s, when the dismantling of the Soviet Union left the second largest fleet in the world with only a fraction of its Cold War budget. Rather than immediately retire ninety percent of those ships, Russia tried to keep many of them operational. This consumed most of the navy budget, and didn't work. There were too many ships, not enough sailors and not enough money for maintenance or training at sea. The mighty Soviet fleet is mostly scrap now, or rusting hulks tied up at crumbling, out-of-the way naval bases.

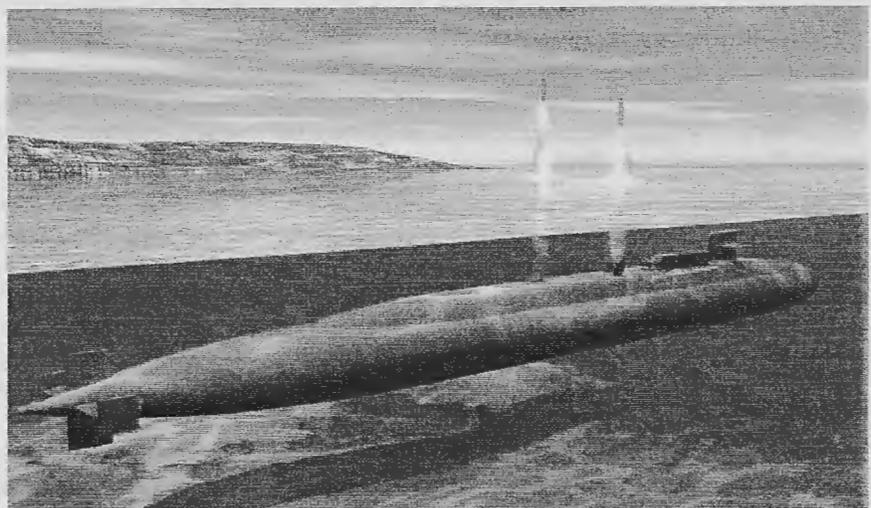
While Western nuclear subs can last for about thirty years, Russian models rarely get past twenty. That means two new SSN or SSGN has to be put into service each year to maintain a force of forty boats. Unless the sub construction budget get billions more dollars a year, that is not going to happen. Right now, the priority is on producing a new class of SSBNs (11 more Boreis are planned or under construction): These Boreis are critical, because they carry SLBM (Sea



Ohio-Class SSGNs Prove Worth In Irregular Warfare, Special Operations

Richard R. Burgess, Seapower Magazine, March 1, 2009

This spring, USS Georgia, an Ohio-class nuclear-powered guided-missile submarine (SSGN) will deploy, taking the fourth and newest boat of the class into real-world operations and training exercises in its new configuration. Loaded with scores of Tomahawk cruise missiles and dozens of special operations forces (SOF) personnel, such as Navy SEALs, the SSGN – converted from a ballistic-missile submarine (SSBN) – will quietly and covertly proceed to undisclosed areas of the world, performing missions assigned by combatant commanders and participating in exercises with U.S. and allied joint forces. The SSGN provides the theater commander with a highly capable strike asset and a stealthy launching platform for special operations. Georgia will relieve USS Florida, just as USS Michigan last year relieved USS Ohio, the first of the class to deploy. Ohio deployed for 14 months, an unusually long "cruise" for a Navy ship in recent decades. Deployments of similar durations will become routine, facilitated by the Navy's practice of



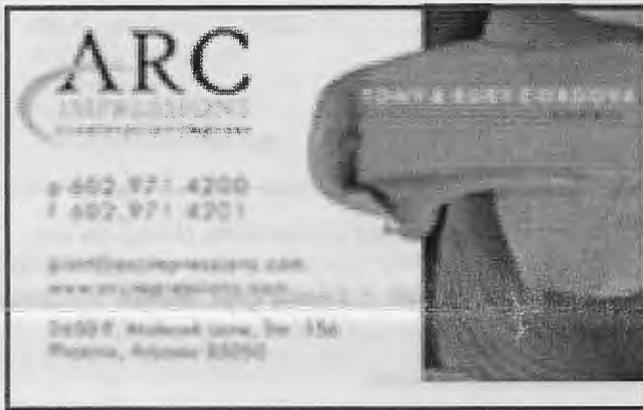
operating the submarines with two alternating crews, designated Blue and Gold.

With Capt. Chris Ratliff commanding, Ohio's Blue Crew departed Bangor, Wash., Oct. 14, 2007, on the class' first operational deployment. The Blue Crew alternated with the Gold Crew under the command of Capt. Andy Hale, who was succeeded in April 2008 by Capt. Dennis Carpenter.

Ratliff said the submarine conducted four mission periods: three months with the Blue crew, then three with the Gold crew, then four months with the Blue crew and a final four months with the Gold, returning to Bangor Dec. 22, 2008.

Nominally, the Navy schedules SSGNs for 12-month deployments. Because Ohio was ready for deployment a month ahead of schedule, it departed early and extended an additional month to minimize the gap before Michigan's deployment, Ratliff said.

"We did everything the boat was built to do," he said. "We proved the worthiness of SSGN to the combatant commander. In specifics, we did several [SOF] real-world missions and exercises. Both crews got to participate in those. "We didn't launch any Tomahawks, but we did cover theater strike commitments," Ratliff said. "We certainly deepened the U.S. Navy's relationship with the allies, specifically the Republic of Korea, Republic of the Philippines and Japan. We contributed significantly to the global war on terrorism and other theater security objectives." "The first deployment of USS Ohio [as an SSGN] was a tremendous success and we're just building on that success with other subsequent deployments," said Vice Adm. Jay Donnelly, commander of the Navy's Submarine Force. The four SSGNs were



converted by General Dynamics' Electric Boat from the first four boats of the 18-submarine Ohio class. In each boat, all but two of the 24 tubes designed to accommodate Trident nuclear-tipped missiles were converted with the Multiple All-up-round Canister (MAC), which allows the tubes to house seven Tomahawk missiles, for a maximum of 154 Tomahawks for strike missions.

The MACs can be removed and replaced by gear stowage containers to equip up to 66 SOF personnel. The remaining two tubes – the forward-most – have been converted to lock-in/lock-out chambers that also serve as docking stations for Dry-Deck Shelters or submersibles, such as the Advanced SEAL Delivery System (ASDS). The SSGNs also are equipped with enhanced command-and-control facilities in the form of

the Common Submarine Radio Room and the Battle Management Center.

Special Ops "The SSGN is the Navy's premier irregular warfare platform," said Donnelly. "It has the capacity and the capability that the combatant commanders need. What we're finding is there is a great demand for their capabilities in theater.

"It's because of the size of those ships that we can house all of the SOF personnel with their equipment," he said. "We can maintain their physical readiness and capabilities because of the size of the ship and all the exercise equipment we put on board. They've proven to be very, very useful in theater in the irregular warfare operations that we engage in."

"What we bring is the ability to do an SOF campaign because of the volume of the submarine, the number of SOF and support forces we can embark and their command-and-control element," Ratliff said. "Because of the volume of the boat, the special operations forces can stay ready to do their job for an indefinite amount of time. We can stay on station for a very long time and just keep doing the SOF missions over and over again. We're the only platform that has that SOF campaign capability."

As part of the conversion, 66 extra bunks were installed, so each SOF member was assigned his own bunk. Ratliff said the SEALs were able to sleep well and had plenty of room to exercise. The SSGN provided ample storage space for their equipment and room to break out the equipment for missions. The SEALs were not given normal submarine on-board crew responsibilities such as damage-control assignments, but maintained their own spaces and "established camaraderie by helping out in the galley on the mess decks," Ratliff noted. "They had a lot of mission planning work to do that we did with them," he said. "Of course, when they were doing their mission, they were very busy and very focused. I wouldn't classify them as just riders at all. They were certainly good shipmates and certainly fully engaged in the mission at hand."

Ratliff said he had a strong partnership and working relationship with the onboard SOF commander. "There are some fine points once we begin mission execution where responsibilities change, but we're really working together to ensure the mission is a success," he said.

"The Navy SEALs [are] a very adaptable group of young guys and they did very well onboard," he said. "It was just great to have them onboard. I'm sure they were anxious to get their job done, as we all were, but as far as adaptability to the submarine environment, they just did a great job."

Strike Capability The Tomahawk strike capability of the SSGN is the largest of any Navy warship. "We deployed with 105 Tomahawk missiles, which is a significant proportion of the theater requirement," Ratliff said. "That's freeing up destroyers for more efficient execution of their theater ballistic-missile defense mission and the carrier strike group missions. Also, we have freed up attack submarines (SSNs) to do their sea-control missions much more effectively."

"In each theater," Donnelly said, "there's a certain requirement for a number of Tomahawk strike weapons that need to be available for tasking. When an SSGN comes in with the large capacity that those ships have, it does free up the rest of the fleet to redistribute their weapons. We have enabled the destroyers to increase their ballistic-missile defense capabilities as a result of being able to download their Tomahawk missiles."

The SSGN has significant intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities, but they are used in support of the SSGN's SOF mission rather than specific ISR tasking.

Michigan originally was scheduled to deploy with the Navy's single ASDS, a 60-ton, 65-foot-long submersible designed to deliver SEALs to their mission areas. Just prior to the November deployment, however, the ASDS was damaged by a fire. "We're still in the investigative process with the [ASDS] fire to determine the full extent of the damage and what our options are for that vehicle," Donnelly said. "SSGNs are now deploying with two dry-deck shelters installed and that gives them a lot of capability for launching and recovering SEALs with the Swimmer Delivery Vehicle [SDV]. The SDV is not as capable as the ASDS but still provides the SOF community with the capability to transport SEALs underwater."

Unlike the SSNs and SSBNs, which are commanded by submariners with the rank of commander, the SSGNs are commanded by captains. Ratliff, now assigned as a special assistant for SSGN matters to the commander of Submarine Group Nine and awaiting orders to a post-major command assignment, served on five SSNs and later commanded Georgia – then an SSBN – for three years before he took command of Ohio as a captain.

Although Georgia as an SSBN and Ohio as an SSGN had many similarities, Ratliff said he considered the designation of the SSGN as a major (captain-level) command appropriate.

"To command Ohio as an SSGN was the most challenging assignment I've had in my career," he said. Ratliff said the SSGN is the "best of both worlds" compared with the distinct SSN and SSBN missions. "We had very exciting, cutting-edge, high-stakes missions. And we get to come home to live in the Pacific Northwest," he said, speaking of the Bangor, Wash., homeport of Ohio and Michigan. "Of the guys getting ready to go to major command, about one-half of them are listing SSGNs as the No. 1 choice. When I run into old shipmates who are getting ready to go back on sea duty, they're all talking about asking for SSGN."

Ratliff said the Navy should advance the SSGN concept to give it greater capability with, for example, unmanned undersea vehicles and perhaps unmanned aerial vehicles.

"If you roll open [the missile tubes], 50 feet deep with a 7-foot interface to the sea, your imagination just wants to take off on the things that we could develop and put on board that submarine," he said. "Now that we've proven that it can do everything that we built it to do, we can start taking it to the next level."

"That wouldn't be changes to the platform. That would be putting additional things on it that we have the volume to accommodate," Ratliff said. "I have nothing but praise for the design, building and operations of the SSGN. I think we did it right. We have a very credible way for us to bounce back and forth with the SSGN and the use of payloads."

Each MAC features seven cells – six for Tomahawks and one for service access, hence no loss of missile capacity. Electric Boat avoided the temptation to increase capacity – and cost – with the redesigned bow to use all 14 cells for missiles. The Navy required only 12 missile cells. "We potentially could have seven Tomahawks [in each MAC], so we made a conscious decision working with the Navy to minimize the cost and maximize the affordability," Holmader said.



Electric Boat is acquiring a spare MAC from the SSGN program to demonstrate on its prototype large-diameter tube later this year. Holmänder said the redesigned bow “would save \$40 million per ship, an \$800 million program savings” over the 20 Virginia SSNs in Blocks III, IV and V.

“We believe that the savings are accurate, so much so that we’ve built it into our pricing strategy in doing the Block III contracts,” he said. “That’s certainly a testament of our commitment.” Holmänder said Electric Boat included more than 100 separate design initiatives that were mature enough for fixed-price proposals in the technical baseline for Block III.

“We’ve had a bunch of additional projects in process that were not mature enough that we see could be potentially incorporated in the future,” he said. “We are actively working with the Navy to figure out what [each project’s] place is in the program, so there could be some additional savings.” The redesigned Block III bow is a major stepping-off point for features being considered for Block IV. The two large-diameter payload tubes on Block III feature hatches that open only on the top of the bow. Electric Boat is looking at modifying the tubes with hatches that also open at the bottom of the hull, called “bottom drop” in company terminology. “We left space envelopes in our design to not preclude being able to do that in the future without snowballing the change into a bunch of other things,” Hesch said. “We are trying to stay with the rest of the fleet on opportunities with payload.”

“We’re also looking at payload systems that would allow us to launch and retrieve payloads from these tubes, consistent with some experimentation that is going on the [Ohio-class SSGN],” said Thomas N. Plante, Electric Boat’s program development manager for the Virginia SSN. Plante said the large-diameter tubes are not as long, but have similar diameters, as the SSGN payload tubes. Electric Boat is looking to leverage the capacity of the large-diameter tubes as potential launchers for unmanned aerial vehicles, unmanned underwater vehicles and special forces payloads, among others. “The other thing we’re focused on is improvement [of the] life-cycle affordability of the class,” he said. “The class design changes that improve [the] affordability of maintaining the ships as we build up the fleet [is] a whole group of ideas and technologies that we’re off to develop.”

US-Chinese Naval Standoff The Latest In A String Of Clashes

The US Navy has accused Chinese ships of harassing a US submarine-tracking vessel in the South China Sea.

By Peter Ford, The Christian Science Monitor, March 10, 2009

BEIJING – Chinese fishermen nearly made off with some of the US Navy’s most modern and secret submarine tracking equipment, it seems, in a South China Sea incident Sunday that is making diplomatic waves.

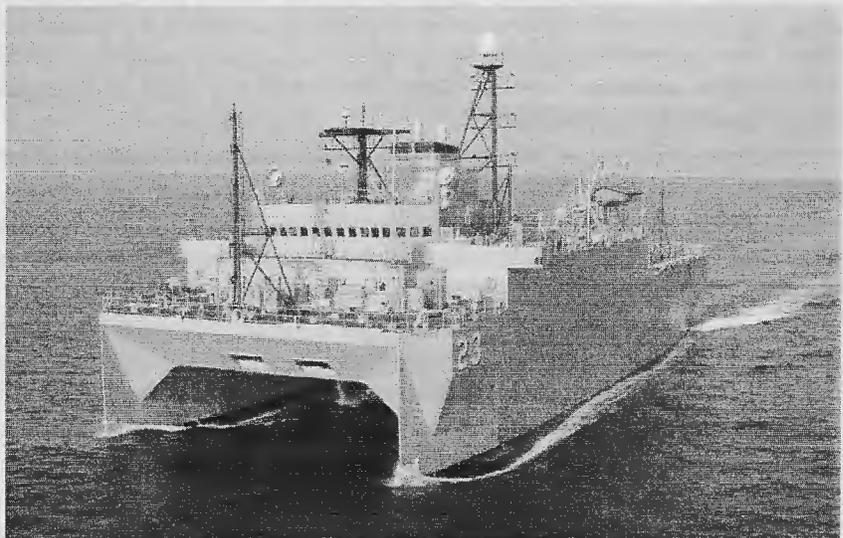
Unarmed American seamen on the USNS Impeccable were reduced to turning their firehoses on five Chinese military and fishing vessels – one of which approached to within 25 feet before the US ship withdrew, according to the US Navy account.

The incident is the latest in a string of clashes and standoffs between Chinese and US military forces in the South China Sea, though with both Beijing and Washington apparently keen to maintain close relations, this affair is not expected to boil over.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu Tuesday said the Impeccable “broke international and Chinese laws” and had deserved to be seen off.

The US Embassy here countered that the civilian-crewed US Navy ship had been “conducting routine operations ... in accordance with customary international law.” A Pentagon statement accused the Chinese vessels of having “aggressively maneuvered in dangerously close proximity” to the Impeccable.

So what was going on last Sunday? Just a more public, and possibly more dangerous spat in the ongoing cat and



mouse game that the US and Chinese navies play quietly all the time in the South China Sea.

There is little doubt what the Impeccable was doing 75 miles off the coast of the island of Hainan, where the Chinese have built a major submarine base. It is one of only four US ships worldwide equipped with the latest generation of sub-hunting sonar, known as SURTASS LFA (which stands for Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System - Low Frequency Active, in case you were wondering.)

At one point during the incident, "the Chinese used poles in an attempt to snag the Impeccable's towed acoustic array sonars," reported the US Navy's press service, quoting Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman.

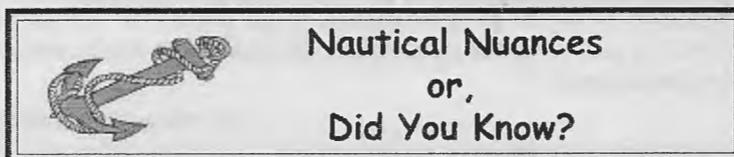
Had they succeeded, it would have been embarrassing, to say the least. In a 2007 environmental impact statement, the Navy described LFA as "the only available technology capable of meeting the US need to improve detection of quieter and hard-to-find foreign submarines at long range."

With Hainan not far from Taiwan, the island-state that China claims and the US has pledged to defend against any attack, this is sensitive technology. The aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk was discomfited a couple of years ago when it was on maneuvers and a Chinese submarine surfaced a few hundred yards off its bow. None of the flagship's carrier-strike group had spotted the intruder.

Sunday's incident came after a week of what the Pentagon statement called "increasingly aggressive conduct by Chinese vessels" aimed at the Impeccable and a sister ship, including low-altitude flybys by Chinese maritime surveillance planes.

The Chinese appear to be stretching the law when they claim that the Impeccable was engaged in illegal activities. The UN Law of the Sea does not specifically permit military activities within other countries' 200-mile "exclusive economic zones," but it only specifically prohibits them within 12-mile territorial waters, and nobody is saying the Impeccable was that close to the Chinese coast.

Oh, and why did the Navy have to produce an environmental impact report on the Low Frequency Active sonar? Because not only the Chinese are upset about it. Conservation groups in the US had charged that the system disturbs whales and other ocean-dwelling mammals. Their objections were overruled.



In World War II the Germans lost 782 submarines, the Japanese lost 130, and the United States lost only 52 submarines. Twenty-three of the Japanese subs lost were victims of the American Submarine Service.

Submarine tenders, or 'mother ships' of the U.S. Navy usually bear the names of characters of mythology, the names of submarine inventors, or the names of persons who have made contributions to the Submarine Service.

A submarine, the TURTLE, was employed by the American revolutionary army to attack the British. It was built by David Bushnell at Saybrook, Connecticut, just a few miles from the present site of Electric Boat Division of the General Dynamics Corporation, and the U.S. naval Submarine Base.

George Washington Endorsed the use of the first American submarine, David Bushnell's TURTLE, during the Revolution. Following the vessel's attack on a British man-of-war, he discussed the potential use of submarines in a letter to Thomas Jefferson.

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON, the world's first ballistic missile nuclear powered submarine, constructed in record time, set a record of its own by remaining submerged 67 days on its initial Polaris missile deterrent patrol in the Atlantic.

From the Wardroom Base Commander's Message

Shipmates:

First of all, let me thank you for the confidence you have expressed in me by electing me Base Commander. In addition, you have elected three other officers: Howard Doyle as Vice Commander; Dave Harnish as Treasurer; Tim Moore as Secretary.

This past weekend, four base members, including me, participated in the Harvest Festival at the Del Mar Fairgrounds in Del Mar CA. BRAVO ZULU to Walt Blomgren, Howard Doyle and Chuck Emmett for their able assistance.

By having our float on display, we raised over \$300 toward the Save Our Sail project and the purchase of our storage van. We made a lot of good contacts and hope to be able to attend more of these Festivals in the future. The experience was terrific and I hope that more of our base members will participate as we move forward.

I am excited about being your Base Commander and I want to invite each and every one of you to become more active in base activities. I look forward to the challenges that we face.

Fraternally,

Jim Denzien, Base Commander

March Meeting Minutes

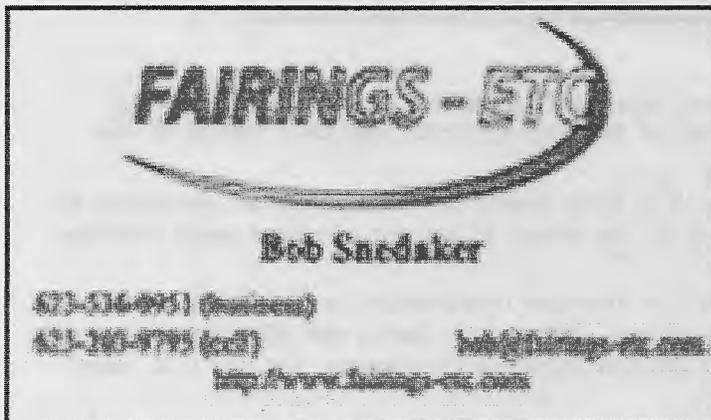
The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans, Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #105, Phoenix, AZ at 1230 hours, 14 Mar 2009. The meeting was called to order by Stan Reinhold, Base Commander.

The "Call to Order" was led in a prayer of invocation by Howard Doyle followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and standard ceremonial opening. The tolling ceremony was conducted for all boats lost in March and a moment of silence was observed for our shipmates on eternal patrol.

According to the sailing list, thirty-two (32) members and guests were present.

In addition to a number of other guest introductions, our featured speaker, Les Parsons, CDR USN, was introduced and gave us a brief bio of his Navy career. After the general meeting Les gave us an outstanding presentation including a 70mm slide presentation relating to his experiences while serving as Commanding Officer of the Bathyscaph Trieste.

Butch Deshong was introduced and he is the gentleman who has contributed a covered storage facility for our float, for the interim, until we procure our Sea Van for permanent storage. Butch has been a member of Perch



Base for six or seven years.

Reports of Officers and Committee Chairmen

Base Vice-Commander – Jim Denzien, had nothing to report.

Base Secretary (Interim) – Tim Moore had nothing to report.

Base Treasurer – Dave Harnish had nothing to report.

Base Chief of the Boat – Jim Edwards had nothing to report.

MidWatch Editor – Chuck Emmett reported that the write-up he did for our float in the Phoenix Veteran's Day Parade was published as a full page article in the current edition the American Submariner.

Base Storekeeper – DeWayne Lober had nothing to report.

Membership Chairman/Webmaster – Ramon Samson reported that some years back we invited the surviving crewmembers of the USS Perch SS-176 to be honorary life members of Perch Base. At that time there were six surviving crewmembers. Two of those members have gone on eternal patrol with the most recent being Thomas Moore who lived in Florida. There are now only four surviving crewmembers who we need to keep in our thoughts and prayers.

Base Chaplain – Howard Doyle had nothing to report.

Historian – Jim Newman had nothing to report.

Float Coordinator – Barry Bowers was not present.

Public Relations – Ben Acosta was not present.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the February 2009 regular meeting be approved as published in the MidWatch monthly newsletter. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Base Treasurer Dave Harnish reported the Base's financial status as of 28 Feb 2009. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Old Business

Stan asked if there were any more nominations from the floor for the slate of officers. The current nominees include; Jim Denzien, Base Commander, Howard Doyle, Vice Commander, Tim Moore for Secretary and Dave Harnish for Treasurer. The other board positions are appointed by the Commander. A motion was made and seconded that we accept the slate as published. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote. The new officers will begin serving immediately.

The spring picnic will be on Saturday, 28 Feb 2009 at the White Tanks Recreational Area. All hands were reminded that it will cost \$7.00 per person for the picnic lunch and \$6.00 per carload to get into the park. Also it will be BYOB for those who wish to consume alcoholic beverages. Ray Samson reported that six (6) of the eight (8) Holland Club inductees will be present at the picnic to participate in the Holland Club induction ceremony. The picnic will be from 1000 until 1400 with the induction ceremony to be held at noon.

Stan reported that the amended Bylaws will be published for review on the website and a link will be published in the newsletter. We will discuss the Bylaws at the next general membership meeting. Chuck Emmett mentioned that we will also vote on the re-write of the Bylaws at the next general membership meeting in April.

New Business

No new business discussed.

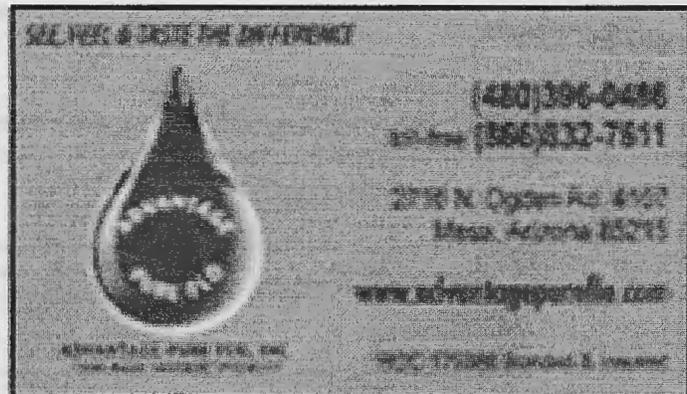
Good of the Order

The SubVettes will be conducting a Garage Sale/White Elephant Sale at the picnic so bring donations for the sale and money to make purchases.

Jim Denzien reported that we received a donation of \$1000.00 from the WWII SubVets "Pigboaters" organization. This donation was presented by Billy Grieves to the Arizona SubVets Perch Base Foundation to help with our SOS project.

Billy Grieves also donated a WWII 16 power long glass like the ones used aboard WWII submarines. He purchased it at a war surplus store in 1945 for \$35.00. The current historical value should be much greater. We will accept Billy's offer and use the long glass as a fundraiser for the SOS project.

Dave Harnish reported that in June of 2008, when we conducted a Perch Base meeting at the Happy Trails RV Resort in Surprise, someone brought a guest named Ed Kolomoski, a retired Capitan. Another person who has read our newsletter on line but is not a USSVI member said he is a fishing buddy of Ed's brother and that his brother is very sick



and he is trying to contact Ed. If anyone knows Ed Kolomoski, who he is or his whereabouts, please let Dave Harnish know.

For the Good of the Order, Tim Moore, on behalf of the crew, extended our thanks and sincere appreciation to Stan for his last two years of dedicated duty and kudos for the great food he provided. Thank you Stan.

50/50 Drawing

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Rick Simmons who donated his winner's share of \$68.00 to our Sea Van fund.

Adjournment

All the outstanding business having been concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The benediction was offered by Howard Doyle and the meeting was adjourned at 1414 hours.

Tim Moore, Secretary, Perch Base USSVI



From the Desk Of the Sea Hag

Perch Base SubVettes

Ah, spring is upon us! Have you noticed all the flowers in bloom? I, for one, am relishing still having the windows wide open! All too soon, it will be air conditioning time. Ah well, the joys of living in Phoenix.

Those of you not at the meeting this month missed a great corned beef dinner by Stan. Yum! It certainly put me in a good mood for St. Patrick's Day.

Question; short of getting a dog, how do I keep cats out of my yard? E-mail me with your suggestions - mdenzien@cox.net. Better yet, come to a meeting a let me know.

Ladies, remember, annual dues were due in January - \$10.00 for Perch Base Membership and \$10.00 for National Membership. Those who are remiss will be dropped from our roster.

What can we do to entice you ladies to attend our meetings? The men seem to have a good turn out – why are you not coming along? We won't volunteer you for anything! Any and all suggestions are welcome. E-mail me!

Please join us at the April 11th meeting!

See you there,

Mary

SUBVETTES MEETING MINUTES - April Meeting

Present: Mary Denzien, Nancy Nelson, Jan Reinhold, Muriel Grieves, JoAnne Norwood, Irene Parsons. The meeting was called to order by President Mary Denzien at 12:30pm.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes were read by Nancy Nelson and accepted with corrections. No treasurer's report. Jane will have a current report for the April meeting.

Mary reminded everyone about the March 'yard sale' at the picnic at White Tanks Mountain Park. Bring your treasures, price them, if not sold, take them home.

Carolyn reported there was no correspondence this month.

Updated By-Laws will be distributed at the April meeting.

A reminder will be sent to the members, who have not renewed their membership. This should have been completed in February. Carolyn explained she had forgotten, but will work with Mary to get it done in March.

Nancy reported that she had been in touch with Ella Blado, and Carol Boyle. They were the original President and Treasurer of the National SubVettes. Rita, the current president has moved to Melbourne FL., lost her mother and her son had brain surgery. Nancy received her address and telephone number and trying to get an E-mail address. Joan Peters will be taking the President position next year - she will be great. Carol said Rita would help when you call, but Nancy stated to date nothing has happened.

Mary's attempt to get the membership cards taken care of was told that she had sent just what they were looking for, but still no response. Nancy will pursue the problem. Also the men have no oversight for ladies. We will talk about that at the March 28th picnic.

It was agreed in the February meeting that the 2008 dues will be ignored; 2009 dues are past do.

Nancy updated us on Debbie and Heather Newell. Brandy Hershey is now in college.

NEW BUSINESS

Mary stated that no one had applied for the scholarship fund. After a length discussion and many suggestions it was agreed that it would be nice if something permanent honoring Kay would be appropriate. Nancy will E-Mail Debbie Newell and Loir Burgstead (Kay's daughters) and will report back to us at the picnic March 28.

SubVette Meeting (March 14, 2009)

Lack of attendance at our meetings continues to be a problem. Many ideas mentioned as possibilities to stimulate some interest; such as, guest speakers, craft projects, fashion show, recipes made and brought to the meetings.

Mary will ask Jim Denzien, Commander of the Perch Base, about the possibilities of us making the table decorations for their next party.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

March Birthdays

Betty Long	3/10
Karen Emmett	3/14
Shelia Galloway	3/17
Deborah Newell	3/28

ADJOURNMENT

Jane made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:30...Nancy 2nd. The motioned carried.

Want the Base Float for an Event?

Take charge and use the following checklist:

1. Contact Barry Bowers (see contact information, below) and make sure he has it free on the float calendar and places your event on it.
2. Plan on who will staff the event. What coverage is required and who will man it when
3. Plan on who will pick up the float and tow it. (Remember, its now located in eastern Mesa, an almost 50 mile trip from the west side
4. Ensure the vehicle/person towing the float has insurance that will cover this action.
5. Ensure that someone on the crew that will setup the float has been checked out fully on the electronics and other float equipment.

Now that Perch Base has a world-class float, the USS Phoenix (SSN-702), the demands for usage have skyrocketed. So the base has a new position, the FLOAT COORDINATOR. If you know of a chance to show off the float, contact:



Barry Bowers
(623) 237-1121
barry85305@gmail.com



Eternal Patrol Apr. 3, 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.



USS Pickerel (SS-171)
Apr. 3, 1943
74 men



Porpoise-Class
Disp: 1,350 tons (surf), 2,029 tons (sub) ft 7/8 in, Draft: 15 ft.
Speed: 19.25 knots (surf), 8.75 knots (sub)
Length: 298 ft, Beam: 25
Range: 11,000 nautical miles (20,000 km) at 10 knots
Test depth: 250 ft

Propulsion:
4 × Winton Model 16-201A 16-cylinder two-cycle diesel engines, 1,300 hp
2 × 120-cell Gould AMTX33HB batteries
8 × GE electric motors, 538 hp
2 × General Motors six-cylinder four-cycle 6-241 auxiliary diesels

Complement:
(as built:) 5 officers, 45 enlisted; (1945) 8 officers, 65 enlisted

Armament:
6 × 24" torpedo tubes (four forward, two aft; 16 torpedoes)
Two external bow tubes added 1942
1 × 4"/50 cal deck gun, 4 × 0.3 cal (7.62 mm) machine guns

Inter-War Period

After shakedown, the new boat conducted training exercises out of New London, Connecticut until getting underway on 26 October 1937 and heading, via Guantánamo Bay, Cuba to transit the Panama Canal on 9 November. Joining the Pacific Fleet, Pickerel operated out of San Diego, California, along the West Coast, and in Hawaiian waters. Subsequently transferred to the Asiatic Fleet, she prepared for war with a vigorous training schedule in the Philippines.

World War II

Upon receiving word of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, Pickerel - commanded by Lieutenant Commander Barton E. Bacon, Jr. - sped to the coast of Indo-China and conducted her first war patrol off Cam Ranh Bay and Tourane Harbor. She tracked a Japanese submarine and a destroyer but lost them in haze and rain squalls before they came in torpedo range. On 19 December, she also missed a small Japanese patrol craft with five torpedoes, before returning to Manila Bay on 29 December.

On her second patrol - from 31 December 1941-29 January 1942 - conducted between Manila and Surabaya, the submarine sank Kanko Maru on 10 January 1942. On her third war patrol - from 7 February-19 March - along the Malay Barrier and her fourth - from 15 April-6 June - in the Philippines, she failed to score.

Pickerel's fifth war patrol, from 10 July to 26 August, was a voyage from Brisbane, Australia, to Pearl Harbor for refit, with a short patrol in the Mariana Islands en route, during which she damaged a freighter.

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On her sixth war patrol - from 22 January to 3 March 1943, she searched among the Kurile Islands on the Tokyo-Kiska traffic lanes. In sixteen attacks, she sank Tateyama Maru and two 35-ton sampans.

She departed Pearl Harbor on 18 March 1943 and, after topping off with fuel and provisions at Midway Island on 22 March, headed for the eastern coast of northern Honshu- and was never heard from again. Pickerel was the first submarine to be lost in the Central Pacific area. She was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 19 August 1943.

Post-war analysis of Japanese records gives conflicting suggestions about Pickerel's fate. The Japanese officially credit her with sinking Submarine Chaser Number 13 on 3 April and Fukuei Maru on 7 April, and give no official report of her destruction. Those records also describe an action off Shiramuka Lighthouse on northern Honshu- on 3 April 1943 in which naval aircraft first bombed an unidentified submarine, then directed Shiragami and Bunzan Maru to the spot, where they dropped twenty-six depth charges. A large quantity of oil floated to the surface, which was often enough for Japanese ASW ships to believe their target was sunk. It is likely Pickerel's fuel oil bunkers leaked. Since there were several other ASW operations in the area in that period,[11] and Pickerel was the only American submarine in that area; one of these other attacks, some time after 7 April, probably claimed her.



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WWII - Boats



Short Facts

* Officers wore swords for ceremonial occasions as they do today but back before WWII Chief Petty Officers had a cutlass for ceremonial dress occasions. Another uniform item that is now passe is the flat hat. Once the ribbon had the name of your ship but this discontinued for security reasons and all flat hats merely had U.S. Navy in gold on the ribbon.

* In boot camp all of your uniform items were stenciled with your name and service number. There were no doors on lockers and each item had a prescribed method of folding and stowing. It was even prescribed as to how you would pack your seabag.

* Originally, the entire submarine base in Groton was literally below the railroad tracks. Later as the base expanded it was called "lower base." Most of the upper base buildings, i.e., Morton Hall, Dealey Center, etc., were constructed for WWII. The road from the present main gate past the golf course was the Groton-Norwich road. About half way up the road was an overhead railroad bridge. The entrance to the base was under the bridge and the Marine guard stationed there in a guard shack. The base commanders office was housed in a small brick building about half way between the training tower and the Torpedo Shop.



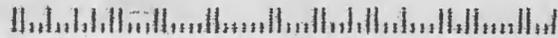
Return To:

U. S. Submarine Veterans, Perch Base
13210 N. Lake Forest Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85351-3252

<http://perch-base.org>



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NEXT MEETING

*12 noon, Saturday, April 11, 2009
American Legion Post #105
3534 W. Calavar Rd., Phoenix, 85053
(1/2 block northwest, 35th Ave. & Thunderbird)*