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USSVI Convention Schedule
 DULUTH—2002 Sept. 17—22
 Reno—2003 - August 31 - Sept. 7
 Two bases bidding for 2004, no decision yet
 Kansas City MO—2005 - Aug 30 - Sept. 4

November 2001
 Volume 7 – Issue 11



Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol

November Eternal Patrol Days

USS SS-66 (O-12)/(S-73)	Nov. 20, 1931	0 Men lost.
USS CORVINA (SS226)	Nov. 16, 1943	82 Men lost.
USS SCULPIN (SS191)	Nov. 19, 1943	40 Men lost.
USS ALBACORE (SS218)	Nov. 07, 1944	86 Men lost.
USS GROWLER (SS215)	Nov. 08, 1944	84 Men lost.
USS SCAMP (SS277)	Nov. 09, 1944	83 Men lost.

Meeting for November 10th
 Will be at American Legion Post 62
 11001 North 99th Avenue
 This is North of West Peoria Avenue, in the city of Peoria.
 Meeting Starts at 1200 Hours

From the Wardroom:

We are approaching the end of this year very quickly; don't know if this is a function of my age or what. Anyway first of all THANKS to "THE COB" and Nancy for opening their home to us for our meeting this past October 13th. The food was first class as well as the facilities. This meeting also provided for an opportunity to honor one of our founding members with a special hand carved set of dolphins. This was one of those treats that make the job of Commander most rewarding. As stated at the meeting **Jim Newman's** contributions to Perch Base are numerous and he continues to be a benevolent booster. In addition this was the first opportunity for many to see the progress on the float by "TUGBOAT TOM". What a job he has done and as the preparations for Veterans Day continue we will be one of the prime attractions. The parade will be on the 12th of November and there will be more in another section of the newsletter. Come out and have a great time. We at Perch Base are still in the change mode as we get used to the new Constitution and By-Laws as well as get all the positions filled. There are many positions that are being filled by one shipmate and we would like to spread the wealth out so as not to cause anyone of our shipmates to get burned out. This is the perfect opportunity to look over the new C/Bs and see if there is an area that you would like to contribute to Perch Base in. We are also approaching the time of year when we need to think about who we would like to have fill the officer positions. There will be a nominating committee established to be headed by Vice Commander **Glen Herold** and anyone that would like to serve on the nominating committee or any of the positions up for election this coming spring let him know. We would like to see that each Officer's position up for election has at least two candidates for the position. In addition as mentioned before there are many opportunities for Committee Chairs or the opportunity to serve on a committee. We are looking for someone to step up and get our scholarship program off the ground and here again this is the perfect spot for some of our associate members to get more involved. We want and need your help and welcome the opportunity to have you serve on these very important committees. Now that we have beat the subject of elections and committees up lets look at what we are trying to do with a budget. Each month there is a list of **Booster's**. Many may not understand what this is, as it has not been discussed to great lengths. With out the booster contributions we would be in a position of doing several things of which none are acceptable. We would have to raise the dues, discontinue the newsletter in its present form, discontinue all our outside activities and the list goes on. The Wardroom and the base are committed to not raising the dues and to continue to grow as we

have been in the past. In order for this to happen all shipmates need to become **Booster's** of Perch Base. If each of the members were to add \$2.00 a month or \$24.00 to the dues at renewal time we would be way ahead of the game. When you look at it in this way, the base is spending about \$280.00 a month to publish and mail your newsletter; this is a cost of about \$2.40 per member. As you can see our \$10.00 dues is not making it. It is through the efforts of our Storekeeper, our Calendar Coordinator, **Ed Brooks** with his dolphin carvings and the generosity of the **Booster contributors** that allow us to do all the projects and provide all the extras for the membership. Just a little food for thought as it is renewal time. Must take a moment here to Thank, Shipmate **Paul Lake** for contacting us when he read in the MIDWATCH our problem with American Legion Post 29. Paul is the Financial Officer at American Legion Post 62 in Peoria and through him they have opened their arms to us, looks like we are going to enjoy our relationship. Some of the positive things that came out of our meeting with Paul was the invitation to participate in the school speakers program which was a goal for us to do any way, so that is a plus and also they have a staff on duty to do lunches for us and those details are being worked out by the COB. Check our web site for information at: www.perch-base.org or call the COB or any of the Wardroom for updates. The Christmas party is going to happen but because of events that we all are aware of the details will have to be announced as we get them worked out. Hopefully as this goes to press all the details will be completed and you will have all the information. Thanks to all the officers of Perch Base for their efforts and guidance as well as the members of Perch that continue to step up and make this job as Commander one of enjoyment.

Minutes from Octobers Meeting:

The regular monthly meeting of the members of the Arizona Submarine Veterans —Perch Base was convened at the home of **Jim and Nancy Nelson**; Phoenix, AZ; 13 October 2001. The meeting was called to order at 1253 hours, by the Base Commander - **Dave Hamish**. The members were led in the "pledge of allegiance" by the Base Chief of the Boat, **Jim Nelson**; followed by the dedication, moment of silence for our departed shipmates and "tolling of the boats". The invocation was delivered by the Base Chaplain; **Howard Doyle**. There were 21 members and 1 Guest attending the meeting according to the sailing list. The membership welcomed new member **Dale Martin** and prospective new member **Ken Stephens**. Reading of the minutes from the August 11 meeting was waived - since they are printed in the Base Newsletter "Midwatch". The motion was made, seconded and approved by

voice vote that the minutes be approved as printed in the August newsletter. The Treasurer's report was read and approved by voice vote of the members. Prior to the start of business, **Dave Hamish** thanked **Jim** and **Nancy Nelson** for hosting the meeting at their home.

Old Business

National Convention in Peoria, Illinois:

Dave Hamish reviewed his and other members trip to the national convention in Peoria. Including a stop at the Navy Memorial and the tour of the **USS Batfish** in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Dave also briefed the members on the efforts toward establishing a scholarship program at the Base level as well as the very effective scholarship program already operating at the national level. The procedures now in effect at USSVI whereby members wishing to become life members can pay the fees, for such membership, on a time payment basis, was discussed. Members can make payments each month until the full amount is paid - rather than pay the full amount for Life Membership at one installment.

Location for future Base meetings:

Dave Hamish reviewed recent problems with American Legion Post #29 in Glendale, Arizona. Announcing that arrangements have been made to shift the Perch Base regular meetings to American Legion Post #62 in Peoria, Arizona. The post is located on 99th Ave in Peoria. The Post has a full time cook and several programs that may interest members of Perch Base including providing speakers to the Phoenix school system. A program that the USSVI has been encouraging for submarine veterans.

Veteran's Day Parade:

Dave Hamish reviewed arrangements for Perch Base participation in the Phoenix Veteran's Day Parade on November 12th, 2001. Shipmates **Tom Tilley** and **Glenn Herold** had arranged to bring the parade float to the meeting and all the members were given a front row view of the masterpiece that is the **USS Bang** float. **Tom Tilley**, who constructed the float, described, in expert detail, its construction and features. **Glenn Herold** briefed the membership on the way the project was managed and the financial backing provided by **Tom Tilley**, himself and **Jim Newman**. The members showed their strong support and appreciating with a resounding ovation. Everyone agreed that the float would be something the Perch Base would be proud of for years to come. In response to a query, **Dave Hamish** reviewed the extent of our participation in the Veteran's Day Parade. The Perch Base (submarine veterans) contingent will be led by members carrying the Perch Base USSVI Banner. This is followed by the color guard provided by the Naval Recruiting District. Then a vehicle carrying the Commander, Naval Recruiting District (a submariner) followed by an SUV filled with Perch Base members. Next

will be the **USS BANG** float towed by **Glenn Herold** and his SUV. Then the Palo Verde Submarine Veteran's Banner will follow the float. Then the submarine flags (up to 100) will follow the Palo Verde Banner. Then another vehicle will carry **Greg Overbeck** (another submariner) from Palo Verde in a APS vehicle followed by the APS Clown Banner and the APS Clowns. Then the final element will be a vehicle carrying the Chief of Staff for the Commander Submarines, Pacific. All members were encouraged to participate.

Charitable Contributions:

Dave Hamish reminded the members of the availability of the USSV Charitable Foundation as a conduit for charitable (tax deductible) contributions. Explaining that any charity may be designated for receiving a member's contributions even though they are sent to the USSV Charitable Foundation. The Red Cross, Salvation Army et al. He also suggested that any contributions made directly to national charitable organizations such as the Red Cross be sent in the name of Submarine Veterans. Perch Base received a letter from American Legion Post 75 asking for monetary support for their veteran's picnic to be held on November 11, 2001 at the new State Veteran's Home on Indian School Road in Phoenix. USSVI - Buffalo Base is also trying to raise enough money to restore the submarine memorial in Western New York. Buffalo Base has numerous avenues for raising funds to restore a neglected submarine and is soliciting support throughout the USSVI.

National Elections:

Dave Hamish reported that the participation in the last national election was less than 20% of the national membership. Dave asked the members to think of different actions that could be taken to improve participation including voting on the internet, etc. It was agreed that such availability plus more information about the candidates would improve voter response.

New Business:

American Submariner:

Base Commander **Dave Hamish** informed the membership that subscription to the national publication; "American Submariner" can be purchased and sent to persons or groups not directly affiliated with the USSVI. A member may have a subscription sent as a gift by paying \$10 per year. This is a good way to acquaint others with the submarine service and its veterans. Any input to the editor for the "American Submariner" must be to him by the first day of the first month of the quarter in order for the information to be considered for the upcoming issue.

Base Christmas Party:

The Base Christmas Party is scheduled for the evening of December 8. It is tentatively slated to be held at the Luke AFB NCO Club. However, the security level imposed at the Air Force Base may preclude that. If the NCO Club is not available, a

backup location is being arranged by the Base Chief of the Boat and the Base Commander. The fee for attending the party is set at \$15.00 per person. Space is limited, so everyone was encouraged to make reservations with Don Wannamaker as soon as possible.

Ship's Store:

Base Vice Commander Glenn Herold informed the membership that the ship's store had several new items to offer. Tie tacks and money clips were available for members to purchase for their own use or as gifts. 2002 Calendars are also still available as special gifts for friends and relatives.

Membership:

Membership Chairman, Ramon Samson informed the membership that re-enlistment letters will be mailed to current members the last week of October.

Good of the Order:

Base Commander, Dave Hamish asked Jim Newman to come up front and center where he read a short note extolling Jim's contribution to the submarine veteran's and the Perch Base. He then presented him with a set of hand carved dolphins with appreciation from all his shipmates in Perch Base. Jim was not only instrumental in the forming of Perch Base, he was the first Base Commander and has always been a benevolent booster for the base. He was also recently appointed as Base Historian. The next meeting location and date will be published in the "Midwatch". The 50/50 drawing was won by Doug LaRock. Doug's winning share of the drawing was \$51.00.

Adjournment

Base Chaplain, Howard Doyle led the membership in a closing prayer after which the meeting was adjourned at 1415 hours.

Welcome Aboard New Crewmen:

For the month of November, we welcome aboard two more new members. Robert A Andrews. Robert, with his Wife Susanne, and family reside in Mesa. Robert qualified on USS Skipjack SSN585, in 1985. He also served on USS Hyman G. Rickover SSN709. Robert left the "Silent Service" in 88 and became a SeaBee. He left the Navy after 7 years as a CM2(SS). Our second member is F. J. "Ted" Asbell. Ted with his wife Lilian reside in Surprise, and he found us through the Perch Base web-site. Ted qualified on the USS Tang SS563 in 1952, and also served on the USS Tusk, SS426 from 53-55. He left the Silent Service in 55 as a RM2(SS). Welcome aboard gentlemen and hope we see you at a meeting real soon.



Perch Base Booster Club 2001:

Thank you gentlemen, Thank you very much:

Ben Acosta, Dex Armstrong, Jerry N. Allston, Kenneth R. Anderson, Jerry F. Becker, Kenneth E. Becker, Joseph A. Bernard, Harold J. Bidigare, Wayne A. Braastad, Michael J. Breitner, Thomas P. Burke, Greg A. Camron, James F. Clewett, Roger J. Cousin, Earl J. Crowley III, Stephen F. Day, Warner H Doyle Jr., Jeff Duncan, Ron Doug Eddy, Harry Ellis, Thomas E. Fooshee, Ray Lee Graybeal, Billy A. Grieves, Warren A. Grossetta, David R. Harnish, William L. Hatcher, J Tom Hellem, Glenn Herold, Lester R. Hillman, Stephen F. Hough, Davy Jones, Ron Kloch, Larry L. Krieger, Douglas M. La Rock, Robert A. Lancendorfer, Robert E. May, Hubert W. Maxey, Dennis Mc Comb, John H. Michaud, Paul V Miller, Roger M Miller, Robert E. Mitchell, Joseph R. Mullins, Jim A. Nelson. James W. Newman Sr., Joseph S. Otreba, Thomas B. Patterson, Raymond A. Perron, Royce E Pettit, Phil Phillips, W Scott Prothero, Larry M. Rankin, Frank W. Rumbaugh, Ramon Samson, Rodney Sanborn, Douglas F. Schultz, Tyler C. Smith, Robert G. Sothem, Adrain M. Stuke, Donald Wannamaker, Kenny Wayne, Edward J. Wolf, George Woods, Donald J Whitehead, Jerry D. Yowell.

Small Stores:

Our new storekeeper, Garry Shumann, is looking forward to sending much of his stores to all you members who want to send a Submarine gift this Holiday Season. Garry has a very comprehensive array of USSVI Small Stores, consisting of hats, shirts, sweat shirts, belt buckles, beer mugs, cocktail glasses, coffee mugs, and a slew of other memorabilia. We have a good source for Vest's and forms for ordering may be found on the Perch Base web site. Don't forget the 2002 Calendar. Don Wannamaker has done a super job in getting this project off the ground and words alone are not sufficient to express our gratitude. Give Garry a call for ordering and don't forget that order forms can be printed off the Perch Base web site. (Garry's number on front cover)

Next Meeting and Location:

November's meeting of the 10th, will be held at our new location, at American Legion Post 62, located at 11001 North 99th Avenue. This is North of West Peoria Avenue, in the city of Peoria. Meeting Starts at 1200 Hours. Off HWY 101 take the Peoria exit and proceed West to 99th Ave., than right (North) to Post 62, which is on the East side of the street. We would hope to see a good turn-out as the people of this post have welcomed us with open arms, thanks in part with shipmate Paul Lakes efforts, who belongs to this post.

Scuttlebutt from the Lower Flats:

Shipmate Tom Tilley is finished with his end of the model of USS BANG (SS385) which is mounted on the trailer and currently parked in the COB's (Jim Nelson) back yard. As of this date 10/28/2001, together with Jim Nelson, Dave Harnish, Don Wannamaker, and Glen Herold have completed the following. A stereo amplifier, donated by Don has been installed, wired to speakers and tested. The Base Klaxon, donated to us by Shipmate Wayne "Kirk" Smith of Sierra Vista is in the sail and hooked to batteries, tested and working. The Klaxon was extensively worked on by IC rated Ed Brooks, who placed unit in box, hooked a translator and cord up so unit could be "sounded" 30' away. Oh she sounds so sweet to a ol-DBFer's ears. Hooks have been installed along the top of the superstructure and 20 of Don's plaques will be hung from them. Ray Samson thought he had the hull numbers at the right size, but Brett Nelson MM3(SS) suggested they be scaled down a tad. He was right, and numbers will be placed on the 3rd. A visit to our web page at <http://perch-base.org> will enlighten you as there will be a steady parade of pictures showing the progress. Speaking of web pages, we have launched a new page for the Perch Base Library. Historian Jim Newman, will be heading up this area. There are many great books to be read, and would hope all Perch Base Members take advantage of this. I'm not sure on this, but would bet we are 1 of maybe 5 base's to offer this to it's members.

Lost Boats and Crews for November:

USS SS-66 (O-12)/(S-73) Nov. 20, 1931 2 men lost: During the final months of WWI, USS O-5 (SS-66) operated along the Atlantic coast and patrolled from Cape Cod, MA, to Key West, FL. She departed Newport, RI, 3 November with a 20-sub contingent bound for European waters; however hostilities had ceased before the vessels reached the Azores.

After the Armistice, O-5 operated out of the Submarine School at New London, CT, until 1923. O-5 then sailed to Coco Solo, Canal Zone, for a brief tour. On 18 October 1923, as O-5 entered Limon Bay, preparatory to transiting the Canal, she was rammed by United Fruit steamer Abagarez and sank in less than a minute, with the loss of 2 men. Struck from the Navy List 28 April 1924, she was sold as a hulk to R.K. Morris, Balboa, Canal Zone 12 December 1924.

USS CORVINA (SS226) Nov. 16, 1943 82 Men lost: Venturing into enemy waters for her first time, CORVINA (Cmdr. R.S. Rooney) departed from Pearl Harbor on 4 November 1943. After topping off with fuel at Johnston Island she proceeded to an area south of Truk, there to attack enemy naval forces during our surface operations in the Gilbert Islands.

She was to patrol as close to Truk as enemy antisubmarine measures would permit. On 14 December, she was to pass to command of Commander Task Force Seventy-Two and proceed to an eastern Australian port for refit and duty in SubSoWestPac. When the major surface force operations in the Gilberts were finished, CORVINA was directed by dispatch on 30 November to pass to command of Commander Task Force Seventy-Two, despite her failure to acknowledge. She was directed to proceed to Tulagi and rendezvous with a surface escort, but she did not appear. Again transmissions directing answer were repeatedly sent, but were not fruitful. Since she had not appeared or been heard from since her departure from Johnston Island on 6 November, CORVINA was reported as presumed lost on 23 December 1943. Enemy records indicate that CORVINA met her doom on 16 November 1943, by enemy action. An enemy submarine reported having sighted a surfaced submarine and torpedoed her. Three torpedoes were fired and two were reported to have hit, causing "a great explosion sound."

USS SCULPIN (SS191) Nov. 19, 1943 40 Men lost: En route to Johnston Island, SCULPIN, under Cmdr. Fred Connaway, left Pearl Harbor on 5 November 1943. After topping off with fuel, she left Johnston on 7 November to conduct her ninth patrol in an area in the Caroline Islands. Her mission was to support the action of our surface forces in the Gilbert Islands by intercepting and attacking any enemy forces which might be proceeding from Truk toward the Marshall Islands to oppose our surface forces. She was to leave her area on 14 December, and return to Pearl Harbor, stopping at Johnston for fuel if necessary. SCULPIN was not heard from following her departure from Johnston Island on 7 November. During the patrol, Commander John P. Cromwell (promoted Captain during the patrol) was aboard SCULPIN. He was to take charge of a coordinated attack group consisting of SCULPIN, SEARAVEN, and either APOGON or SPEARFISH, if formation of the group were directed by dispatch. Should the group be ordered formed, Captain Cromwell would transmit his orders to them by low frequency radio from SCULPIN. On the night of 29 November, the vessels were directed to form and APOGON was named as the third member of the group. When Captain Cromwell gave no rendezvous orders after 40 hours, ComSubPac sent new orders. SCULPIN was to proceed immediately to Eniwetok, make a close observation, and report any enemy shipping. This was done in order to avoid confusion among the other submarines, and to determine whether SCULPIN was all right. Although the new orders to SCULPIN were sent repeatedly on 1 December and other orders a few days later, no answer came from her. On 30 December SCULPIN was reported as presumed lost.

USS ALBACORE (SS218) Nov. 07, 1944 86 Men lost:

ALBACORE with Lt. Cmdr. H.R. Rimmer in command, left Pearl Harbor on October 24, 1944, topped off with fuel at Midway on October 28, and departed there for her eleventh patrol the same day, never to be heard from again. Her area was northeast of Honshu and south of Hokkaido, and because of the danger of mines, she was ordered to stay outside of waters less than 100 fathoms deep. She was to depart her area at sunset on December 5, 1944, and was expected at Midway about December 12th. When she had not been seen or heard from by December 21st despite the sharpest of lookouts for her, she was reported as presumed lost. Enemy information available now indicates that ALBACORE perished by hitting a mine. The explosion occurred on November 7, 1944, while ALBACORE was submerged, and was witnessed by an enemy patrol craft. The craft reports having seen much heavy oil and bubbles, cork, bedding and various provisions after the explosion. Prior to her loss, ALBACORE had been a very successful submarine, especially in her engagements with Japanese combat vessels. Her record of enemy combatant ships sunk it the best of any U.S. submarine. She sank a total of 13 ships, totaling 74,100 tons, and damaged five, for 29,400 tons, during her first ten patrols. ALBACORE has been awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for her second, third, eighth and ninth patrols, the ones in which she sank enemy combatant vessels.

USS GROWLER (SS215) Nov. 08, 1944 84 Men lost: Early in November 1944, GROWLER, HAKE and HARDHEAD were operating together west of the Philippines group as a coordinated search and attack group under command of Commander T.B. Oakley Jr., Commanding Officer, GROWLER. The patrol was GROWLER's eleventh. On November 7th, GROWLER reported having made temporary repairs to her SJ radar which made it usable, but that she urgently needed spare parts for it. A future rendezvous was arranged with BREAM for the purpose of delivering the parts. In the early morning hours of November 8th, GROWLER, made radar contact on an enemy target group, and reported it to HARDHEAD. Commander Oakley directed HARDHEAD to track and attack from the convoy's port bow. Shortly thereafter, HARDHEAD made contact with both the target group and GROWLER. After about an hour had passed HAKE heard two distant explosions of undetermined character, and HARDHEAD heard an explosion which sounded like a torpedo. At the same time, the targets zigged away from GROWLER. Shortly after, HARDHEAD heard three distant depth charges explode. A little over an hour after these explosions, HARDHEAD attacked the target from the port bow, obtained three or four hits, and HAKE saw a tanker sink. HARDHEAD was subjected to a

severe counterattack from which it emerged undamaged, while HAKE was worked over thoroughly later in the morning. All attempts to contact GROWLER after this attack were unsuccessful, and she has never been seen or heard from since. Although Japanese records mention on antisubmarine attacks at this time and place, it is evident that depth charges were dropped in the vicinity of GROWLER, but in the absence of more conclusive evidence the cause of her loss must be described as unknown.

USS SCAMP (SS277) Nov. 09, 1944 83 Men lost: Leaving Pearl Harbor on October 16, 1944, SCAMP (Cmdr. J.C. Hollingsworth) headed for Midway, topped off with fuel there, and departed that place for her eighth patrol on October 21, 1944. SCAMP was to patrol in the vicinity of the Bonin Islands. On November 9th, SCAMP was told to stay clear of the Bonins area, and she acknowledged, saying she had made torpedo attacks. This was the last communication received from SCAMP. Since the end of the war, the following facts have been learned from Japanese sources. On November 11, 1944, a Japanese patrol plane bombed what appeared to be oil trails left by a submarine. A coast defense vessel was led to the scene by the plane and dropped some seventy depth charges in three runs on the target whereupon a large oil pool appeared. The position of the attack is one in which SCAMP might be expected to be on November 11th, in proceeding toward her lifeguard station. SCAMP, in the seven patrols completed before her loss, sank six ships, totaling 49,000 tons, and damaged eight, for 40,400 tons.

Important Dates in November:

- Nov 1 1979 - Beginning of retirement of Polaris A-3 program begins with removal of missiles from USS Abraham Lincoln. Last Polaris missile removed in February 1982.
- Nov 4 1971 - USS Nathanael Greene (SSBN-636) launches a Poseidon C-3 missile in first surface launch of Poseidon missile.
- Nov 5 1923 - Tests designed to prove the feasibility of launching a small seaplane from a submarine occur at Hampton Roads Naval Base. A Martin MS-1, stored disassembled in a tank on board USS S-1, was removed and assembled. Then the submarine submerged allowing the plane to float free and take off.
- Nov 10 1956 - Secretary of the Navy proposes the Polaris missile program to the Secretary of defense.
- Nov 11 1981 - Commissioning of first Trident-class Nuclear Powered Fleet Ballistic

- Missile Submarine, USS Ohio (SSBN-726).
- Nov 15 1960 - First Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine, USS George Washington (SSBN-598), leaves Charleston, SC, on initial fleet ballistic missile patrol.
- Nov 16 1963 - President John F. Kennedy on USS Observation Island witnesses launch of Polaris A-2 missile by USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN-619)
- Nov 19 1943 - USS Nautilus (SS-168) enters Tarawa lagoon in first submarine Photographic reconnaissance mission.

General Dynamics ends bid:

FALLS CHURCH, Va. - General Dynamics on Friday officially canceled its \$2.1 billion merger agreement with Newport News Shipbuilding. The decision came three days after the Justice Department sued to block the acquisition. Federal regulators stepped in to stop the deal because of concerns that General Dynamics would hold a monopoly on the construction of nuclear submarines. General Dynamics would have been put in the awkward position of fighting its biggest customer in court if it had tried to push the merger through. Company spokeswoman Norine Lyons said Friday's announcement means that General Dynamics will not try to pursue the merger through the courtroom or by any other means. Newport News, meanwhile, is continuing merger discussions with Los Angeles-based Northrop Grumman, one of General Dynamics' biggest competitors. Newport News spokeswoman Jerri Dickeski said Friday those discussions are ongoing Northrop Grumman's offer of cash and stock for the shipbuilder is currently valued at about \$2.3 billion.

Status Report PCU Virginia SSN774:

By CDR Tom Kearney USN from Undersea Warfare
The Virginia class submarine is widely referred to as "the world's most technologically advanced submarine," and for those who are interested, a significant amount of technical information is readily available on her capabilities. What many Submarine Force personnel are wondering, however, is when they can actually be assigned to this new class of ship. As Officer-in-Charge of Virginia's Pre-Commissioning Unit, I encounter many people around SUBASE New London who notice my Virginia ball cap and express great interest in serving on a Virginia class submarine. Often they are curious about how far along we are in the ship's construction and manning phases. Accordingly, for these curious individuals I offer a current status report on PCU Virginia. Presently, there are 53 crewmembers assigned to Virginia, with 39 nuclear-trained personnel, including

myself, the Executive Officer, Engineer, Navigator, and four LDO division officers. In addition, I have two master chiefs (Chief of the Boat and Engineering Department Master Chief), and a chief corpsman, yeoman, supply chief, and a LAN administrator to round out the crew. The enlisted crewmembers have five-year projected rotation dates and are part of the first crew increment, called Increment A. Their initial manning date was 15 May 2000, after completion of the Reactor Plant Design School in April. Increment A will be onboard through construction and sea trials, and remain until Post Shakedown Availability, which is typically about a year after delivery. Increment B will report in June 2002 and will include about 50 more crewmembers, including Auxiliary Division, Weapons Department, and Operations Department personnel. Three split-tour submarine-qualified junior officers and the ship's four department heads will also report with Increment B. Since the Virginia class modular construction program has required Navy operational support at a much earlier date than previous new construction programs, the Increment A OIC, XO, and Engineer will also change over at the Increment B timeframe. This manning sequence will be the same for subsequent ships of this class. The Virginia class submarines are being built at both Electric Boat (EB) and Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS). Each shipyard constructs about one half of each ship and for the most part repeats the build of the same sections each time. The constructed sections from each shipyard are barged to their counterpart, and the shipyard designated as the "delivery yard" for that ship completes the construction. The delivery yard is also where the pre-commissioning crew will be stationed, and where the ship will undergo an extensive pre-delivery certification test program. Therefore, the crew of Texas (SSN-775) (the second Virginia-class ship) will report to NNS; the crew of Hawaii (SSN-776) will report to EB; and the crew of North Carolina (SSN-777) will report to NNS. Homeports for the ships have not yet been assigned. Since construction occurs at two separate shipyards, it may not be readily apparent how far along each ship is in construction. At this time, if the existing hull sections and completed components for Virginia were put together, she would be just under 50 percent complete. Texas is almost 30 percent complete, and Hawaii about 5 percent. Due to the way the submarines are being constructed, some sections are nearly finished while other sections consist of only rolled steel. For example, the forward part of Virginia's Engine Room and the Reactor Compartment are so far along that ship's force has recently commenced watch standing and testing in that section. Virginia's sea trials are scheduled for March 2004, with delivery scheduled for June 2004. Texas is scheduled for delivery in June 2005. One

significant change in this new construction program involves the way the Control Room and Combat Systems are being manufactured and tested. The Command and Control System Module (CCSM) is now being tested with a large contingent of contractor personnel and some Navy personnel assigned at EB. Once the testing is complete, the CCSM will be slid into its hull section for future joining to the full ship. Benefiting from the considerable strides the Navy has made in using computer applications over the past several years, the Virginia class will mark an impressive milestone in the use of advanced networking. Everything from qualifications, administration, and logs to maintenance and operating procedures — both forward and aft — will be managed on an in-house Non-Tactical Data Processing System. This system consists of six Windows 2000 servers and 12 central processors with the capability of storing a staggering two tera-bytes of data — the computing power and capabilities of the tactical side are even more complex. The office building where crewmembers work while Virginia is under construction is located at the EB facilities and has a replica of the extremely sophisticated LAN that will be used on the ship. Using this LAN, the Virginia crew is developing a streamlined connectivity process and is perfecting methods of conducting business in a paperless environment. Taking the existing database and downloading it onto the ship's network is all that will be required to shift operations from the PCU office building to the boat. In concluding this status report, I should answer the initial question on many submariners' minds: How do I get involved? For those interested in being a part of one of the first Virginia-class ships, Increment B manning for Virginia is scheduled for June 2002, and Increment A manning for Texas is scheduled for January 2002. If you are interested in serving on these ships, I encourage you to talk to your detailer soon — it will be an experience you won't regret. Personally, I have to say that it is a remarkable platform to work on; the advances throughout the ship are extensive, in both the electronics and mechanical areas. Everyone assigned to one of these ships will find significant improvements all around. It is certainly an exciting time for the Submarine Force. The Virginia class is well on its way to becoming the core of the attack submarine force of the future, and it is today's submariners that have the opportunity to watch it all happen. The Virginia-class ships, and their future crews, promise to be key assets in the future of the world's most powerful Submarine Force.

Not Your Dad's Overhaul:

By CDR Donald E. Neubert, USN for Undersea Warfare

Consider the task: Prepare for a major overhaul while on a six-month

deployment, continue preparations during the four week stand-down, conduct and complete the "availability" while maintaining crew proficiency in preparation for six months of post-shipyard inspections, and — finally — roll into a Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) work-up. Oh, by the way, do it all with the same crew. Does this seem challenging? ... impossible? For many, this will become routine. Gone are the days when shipyard availabilities were three to four years long, and the entire crew turned over before the next deployment. Today's shorter maintenance periods require the same crew to prepare, conduct, and complete the availability — and take the ship on deployment. This demanding new schedule will soon affect most of the Submarine Force. In the next few years, more than 35 Los Angeles- and Ohio-class submarines will experience 12-30 month shipyard availabilities — and these will not be your dad's overhauls! USS Chicago (SSN-721) recently completed a 22-month Depot Modernization Period (DMP) a six-month post-availability test period, and then a six-month POM cycle in preparation for a WESTPAC deployment. Many of the same Sailors that prepared the submarine for the DMP also readied the ship for the challenging deployment that followed. Maintaining steady progress required a solid commitment to the fundamentals, as the crew's basic mission, work environment, watch routines, and lifestyle changed radically with the ship's material condition. One of the most important requirements was to ensure stable and adequate crew manning and then to keep it that way for the post-availability inspections. Chicago faced a particular challenge when the DMP was extended from 12 months to 22, bringing it right up to the start of the POM. Luckily, many of our personnel transfers occurred at the 15-month point, so the crew was relatively stable for the entire end game. There were also significant hurdles to overcome in terms of morale and retention, particularly among junior personnel. New Sailors naturally saw the shipyard as "The Navy" hardly what they thought service life was going to be like. Participating in an availability just doesn't compare to the excitement of being out at sea protecting America's interests and seeing the world! Thus, senior personnel needed to show these young Sailors that life in the yard, although occasionally necessary, is not the entire reason for their existence. It certainly helped to couple shipyard duties with stimulating operational and interactive training and to provide opportunities for underway periods on other submarines. Experience on Chicago showed that although it takes substantial "juggling" and ingenuity to implement these strategies, the benefits to morale, retention, and operational proficiency far outweigh the scheduling and manpower inconveniences. One way to ease the

workload effects of temporary absence is to scour the waterfront for any individuals available to assist in routine shipyard duties, such as fire and barge watches or off-hour paint teams. Chicago had significant assistance from reservists during the summer months and from TAD personnel who were unable to get underway on operational submarines. Although a one-to-one swap with an experienced replacement may rarely be achieved, getting a crewmember to sea is the overall goal, and any help you can get is useful. Once the crew was established —along with a rotational system to get them to sea —the command focused on getting the men ready for assuming operational control of the boat once the shipyard period was over. They had to be prepared to close out maintenance, start up systems, restart preventive maintenance procedures, and qualify on legacy, as well as newly-installed, equipment. Although shipyard testing will give ample opportunity for most of the crew to become proficient with individual systems, the real challenge is getting them to operate together effectively as a unit to run the submarine proficiently. The best way to prepare the crew for the end of availability and the beginning of at-sea operations is to focus on basic submarining. Concentrating on sound silencing, proper maintenance, professional watch-standing, and basic damage control will prepare the crew not only for post-shipyard testing and sea trials, but also for completing the post-DMP inspections and starting the POM. Shifting from "Shipyard Mode" to "Operational Mode" is a challenge for everybody. The steady stream of major tasks that need to be accomplished in a shipyard availability creates a mind-set for looking only as far ahead as the next assignment. In the process, it's easy to lose sight of what an operational ship is supposed to look and feel like. The command needs to work on changing that mind-set and focusing the crew on returning to "the waterfront" as quickly as possible. Leave is always an important issue. Many personnel on Chicago were unable to take leave they desired during the availability because of the need to support shipyard maintenance and testing. This inability to take leave, coupled with the loss of excess leave at the end of the fiscal year, was particularly demoralizing to senior enlisted and their families. Many had accrued leave during the deployment before entering the shipyard in hopes of taking time off when in port. They never imagined this would be a problem in the shipyard. To minimize the adverse effects, CINPACFLT's permission was obtained to roll excess leave from one year to the next, much like the case for deployments. This action had two benefits: it proved to Sailors that the command was aware of the hardships and was committed to easing them; and it showed that the Navy acknowledges that a lengthy shipyard period is not really shore duty, and time can be as constrained as during a

deployment. Another issue —often overlooked —is the effect that family life has on a Sailor's morale. Families new to the service may never have thought that shipyard duty is what Navy life could be like. Other Navy families may offer little understanding of the challenges they face. After all, their husband isn't out on deployment! But he's on a boat that they may never have seen — since it's in a secure ship-yard —and the only pattern they really notice is that Dad is exhausted when he gets home. For this reason, forming DMP families into a cohesive group is good for everyone, and keeping lines of communication open between family members and the CO is key. Even something as simple as attending wives' club meetings periodically to answer questions can show families that they're important to the CO. It can also show families how significant the work is that their Sailors go off and do every morning, or night, or both. Ship's picnics, parties, or other get-togethers are also useful for fostering a sense of ship's community. Family members can meet with their counterparts and see that they're not alone in facing difficulties that develop during a shipyard period. Associating names and faces can make it a lot easier for family members to make a call for help or simply find someone else to talk to about their experiences. After FY 01, more and more submarine crews will be challenged to transition their ships from maintenance to operational status. Specifically, the eleven crews scheduled for yard periods in 2002 should be preparing now to counter the potential adverse effects of their availabilities, as well as working to minimize the time their boat will be un-available to our smaller Submarine Force. Hopefully, my experience from Chicago's DMP will take some of the bumps out of the shipyard ride for many submariners and their families; especially those who find that goodbyes during the sea tour are more often from a chain link fence than a pier. CDR Don Neubert was the Executive Officer on USS Chicago during a majority of her DMP. He is currently the Submarine Analyst in the Office of Program Appraisal in the Office of the Secretary of the Navy

TRICARE For Life to Start Oct 1:

As TRICARE For Life begins today, Oct. 1, about 1.5 million uniformed services retirees, their family members and survivors, age 65 and older, will receive expanded medical coverage through the Department of Defense (DoD) health care program. TRICARE For Life will be second payer to Medicare for services and supplies that are benefits under both programs, and the provider does not have to file a TRICARE claim. Combined with the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program that was implemented last April, TRICARE For Life will cover most medical costs not covered by Medicare. There are some health care services that are benefits under either Medicare or TRICARE,

but not both. For example, Medicare covers some chiropractic services, whereas TRICARE does not. Conversely, TRICARE covers retail pharmacy prescriptions and Medicare does not. In these circumstances, the beneficiary will remain responsible for the applicable Medicare or TRICARE cost share and deductible. For those TRICARE For Life users who have other health insurance, such as an employer-sponsored health plan, TRICARE will pay after the other health insurance and Medicare. "The DoD worked with Medicare to integrate our payment systems, so that the TRICARE payment is done so seamlessly that the individual is hardly aware of it," said J. Jarrett Clinton, M.D., the DoD's Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. Most Medicare-eligible beneficiaries of the uniformed services will no longer need an individual Medigap policy, he added. No TRICARE For Life beneficiary card is necessary for them to receive care, and no enrollment is required. However, to be eligible for the expanded TRICARE coverage, uniformed services retirees, eligible family members and survivors, age 65 and over, need to be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). They also must have Medicare Part A, and be enrolled in Part B. Anyone with questions about TRICARE For Life should call TRICARE's toll-free number, 1-888-DOD-LIFE (1-888-363-5433). Details about the TRICARE For Life program recently were mailed regionally by TRICARE managed care support contractors to eligible beneficiaries, using addresses from DEERS. Many age 65 and over beneficiaries already are taking advantage of the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program, which started April, 1. Eligible uniformed services retirees, their family members and survivors receive comprehensive prescription drug coverage with minimal co-payments through its National Mail Order Pharmacy Program, or through TRICARE network and non-network retail pharmacies. Co-payment amounts may be higher if beneficiaries choose non-network pharmacies. They may also continue using military treatment facility pharmacies, which require no co-payments. To learn more about the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program, call 1-877-DOD-MEDS (1-877-363-6337) toll-free. Additional information and updates about TRICARE For Life are posted on the TRICARE Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/ndaa>.

A British View of the US/Bin Laden affair:

By Andrew Sullivan in the London Times

No eloquence can match the impact of their evil. Americans' critical weakness in the past two decades has been their reluctance to shed blood for their goals. They believed they could construct a huge military and never have it fight real wars and suffer real casualties. They thought they could alter history and advance their interests from the

air alone. With the exception of the Gulf War, which they hesitated to finish, they have shrunk from the fight. (President Bush, Sr. decision). When the current enemy struck again and again throughout the 1990s, Bill Clinton responded without real credibility, struck back without real endurance, enraged the terrorists without truly hurting them. We are now living with the consequences of his appeasement, and of his refusal to challenge Americans beyond what the polls said they already wanted to do. Whoever launched this war on Americans has now accomplished the task Clinton didn't dare embark on. America has been bloodied as it has never been bloodied before. I would be a fool to predict what happens next. But it is clear that Bush will not do a Clinton. This will not be a surgical strike. It will not be a gesture. It may not even begin in earnest soon. But it will be deadly serious. It is clear that there is no way that the United States can achieve its goals without the cooperation of many other states - an alliance as deep and as broad as that which won the Gulf War. It is also clear that this cannot be done by airpower alone. As in 1941, the neglect of the military under Bill Clinton and the parsimony of its financing even under Bush must now not merely be ended but reversed. We may see the biggest defense buildup since the early 1980s - and not just in weaponry but also in manpower. It is also quite clear that the U.S. military presence in the Middle East must be ramped up exponentially, its intelligence overhauled, its vigilance heightened exponentially. In some ways, Bush has already assembled the ideal team for such a task: Powell for the diplomatic dance, Rumsfeld for the deep reforms he will now have the opportunity to enact, Cheney as his most trusted aide in what has become to all intents and purposes a war cabinet. The terrorists have done the rest. The middle part of the country - the great red zone that voted for Bush - is clearly ready for war. The decadent Left in its enclaves on the coasts is not dead - and may well mount what amounts to a fifth column. But by striking at the heart of New York City, the terrorists ensured! that at least one deep segment of the country ill disposed toward a new president is now the most passionate in his defense. Anyone who has ever tried to get one over on a New Yorker knows what I mean. The demons that started this have no idea about the kind of people they have taken on. But what the terrorists are also counting on is that Americans will not have the stomach for the long haul. They clearly know that the coming retaliation will not be the end but the beginning. And when the terrorists strike back again, they have let us know that the results could make the assault on the World Trade Center look puny. They are banking that Americans will then cave. They have seen a great country quarrel to the edge of constitutional crisis over a razor-close presidential

election. They have seen it respond to real threats in the last few years with squeamish restraint or surgical strikes. They have seen that, as Israel has been pounded by the same murderous thugs, the United States has responded with equanimity. They have seen a great nation at the height of its power obsess for a whole summer over a missing intern and a randy Congressman. They have good reason to believe that this country is soft, that it has no appetite for the war that has now begun. They have gambled that in response to unprecedented terror, the Americans will abandon Israel to the barbarians who would annihilate every Jew on the planet, and trade away their freedom for a respite from terror in their own land. We cannot foresee the future. But we know the past. And that past tells us that these people who destroyed the heart of New York City have made a terrible mistake. This country is at its heart a peaceful one. It has done more to help the world than any other actor in world history. It saved the world from the two greatest evils of the last century! Nazism and Soviet Communism. It responded to its victories in the last war by pouring aid into Europe and Japan. In the Middle East, America alone has ensured that the last hope of the Jewish people is not extinguished and has given more aid to Egypt than to any other country. It risked its own people to save the Middle East from the pseudo-Hitler in Baghdad. America need not have done any of this. Its world hegemony has been less violent and less imperial than any other comparable power in history. In the depths of its soul, it wants its dream to itself, to be left alone, to prosper among others, and to welcome them to

the freedom America has helped secure. But whenever Americans have been challenged, they have risen to the task. In some awful way, these evil thugs may have done us a favor. America may have woken up forever. The rage that will follow from this grief and shock may be deeper and greater than anyone now can imagine. Think of what the United States ultimately did to the enemy that bombed Pearl Harbor. Now recall that American power in the world is all but unchallenged by any other state. Recall that America has never been wealthier, and is at the end of one of the biggest booms in its history. And now consider the extent of this wound - the greatest civilian casualties since the Civil War, an assault not just on Americans but also on the meaning of America itself. When you take a step back, it is hard not to believe that we are now in the quiet moment before the whirlwind. Americans will recover their dead, and they will mourn them, and then they will get down to business. Their sadness will be mingled with an anger that will make the hatred of these evil fanatics seem mild. I am reminded of a great American poem written by Herman Melville after the death of Abraham Lincoln, the second founder of the country: There is sobbing of the strong, And a pall upon the land; But the People in their weeping Bare the iron hand; Beware the People weeping When they bare the iron hand. It is easy to be an expert after events happen. The decision to commit troops against this type of enemy will be painful. It will be like Vietnam, because it will be difficult to determine who is the enemy sometimes. God Bless America. Gene

As Vets, November the 12th is our day. We hope there will be a overwhelming amount of Sub Vets, to help this be, a parade to be remembered for many years to come. With the murderous attack of our land, on September 11, 2001 I'm sure there will be a huge crowd on hand.

God Bless America
God Bless those in Harms Way

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