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October, 2002
 Volume 8 - Issue 10

**USSVI CONVENTION SCHEDULE
 RENO - 2003 - August 31 - Sept. 7**



Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol

OCTOBER ETERNAL PATROLS

USS Seawolf	SS197	Oct. 3, 1944	79 men
USS S-4	SS155	Oct. 7, 1943	55 men
USS Wahoo	SS238	Oct. 11, 1943	80 men
USS Dorado	SS248	Oct. 12, 1943	76 men
USS Escolar	SS294	Oct. 17, 1944	80 men
USS O-5	SS66	Oct. 18, 1923	2 men
USS Shark	SS314	Oct. 24, 1944	87 men
USS Tang	SS306	Oct. 24, 1944	78 men

Don't Forget!

Next meeting is Oct. 12 at the American Legion Post #62
 11001 N. 99th Ave.
 Starts at 1200 hours
 Lunch provided at \$3 a head

From the Wardroom

Shipmates,

Looking at the date on the calendar, fall is here, but you sure can't tell by the weather. Most everyone should be back from their vacations, or trips out of the heat.

I do not have a lot to cover in this message, our Commander will give us a full report on the Nationals at our next meeting in October. From what I gather from both Ed and Dave's e-mail the turn out was not as great as expected but it still was a great meeting. They both will have plenty to tell at next meeting.

This newsletter is being brought to you through the joint efforts of both Chuck Emmett and Ramon Samson, who is presently involved with moving from his old residence to his new one. Chuck was kind enough to step up and see that we all had a newsletter this month. Ramon's plate was just too full to get his moving done, and the newsletter out at the same time also.

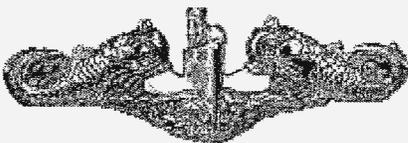
Things we need to be thinking about, New Officers for the base, we need to get more shipmates involved along with new blood that will keep us moving forward.

The Veterans Day Parade is not that far off, we have the float ready to go, Ed Brooks is working on improving our speaker and music system, thanks again to Don Wanamakers gift to the Base of his entertainment center. We are still lugging out, on storage with the float, by getting free storage inside, while waiting for our cover. We do need to get as many shipmates to turn out for this day as possible.

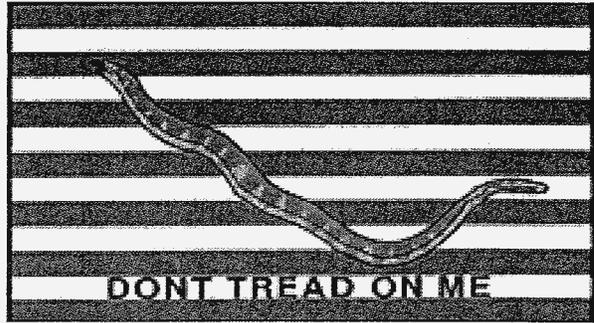
Fraternally Yours,

Vice Commander
Glenn Herold

No meeting was held in September, so there are no minutes to report. Minutes will return with the November issue of your newsletter.



**Next Meeting:
Columbus Day, Saturday, Oct. 12**



The First Navy Jack is comprised of 13 red and white alternating stripes with rattlesnake superimposed.

From the Navy News Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Gordon R. England, has ordered all U.S. Navy ships to fly the First Navy Jack in place of the Union Jack for the duration of the global war on terrorism.

The First Navy Jack, which is commonly known as the "Don't Tread On Me" flag because of the motto which appears on it, consists of a moving rattlesnake on a field of 13 horizontal red and white stripes.

From 1975-76, the First Navy Jack was flown by all Navy ships in the fleet for only the second time since the American Revolution as a historical reminder of country's Bicentennial celebration. Then, in 1977, the Secretary directed that only the oldest active ship in commission would have the honor of flying the Jack. Today, that honor that belongs to USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63), which was commissioned April 29, 1961.

All Navy ships and craft authorized to fly the First Navy Jack will receive four flags each through a special distribution. For deployed ships, the flags have already been mailed to the appropriate Fleet Post Office address. Flags have been hand delivered by representatives of Navy Supply Systems Command's (NAVSUP) Logistics Support Centers to all other ships starting Aug. 30. Deliveries are expected to be completed by the second week of September.

CALL TO ACTION

A Submarine CO's Account of the First Hours of the War on
Terror
by CDR Scott Bawden, USN

"For they had learned that true safety was to be found in long previous training, and not in eloquent exhortations uttered when they were going into action."

- Thucydides (History of the Peloponnesian War, ca. 400 B.C)

When EM2 Jenkins reported on board USS *Providence* (SSN-719), he looked me in the eye and said, "Captain, I

watched as *Providence's* leaders laid out our combat plans efficiently and professionally. The XO reminded me that if our chain of command needed a swift response, we were ready now, and we should be sure to remind them of that. We made preparations to check our already-ready systems one more time. All departments reported their readiness for combat, and I asked my Supply Officer, LT Eric Naley, how long our food supply would let us remain at sea. He answered, "Just tell me how long you want to stay, Captain." This was the first of many times I confirmed our intention to remain in the area for as long as possible. When it came to combat, we had a lot to offer. We knew that and so did our Battle Group Commander, RADM John Morgan, because we had been working closely with him for more than a year. We completed our sprint and returned to periscope depth. Quickly establishing communications, I will never forget being asked where I thought the front lines would be in this conflict. Our response: "Right about here."

Our mobility quickly put us on the scene. Our ability to communicate efficiently kept the information flowing and defined a new submarine tactical weapon: real-time information. Petty Officer Trask kept us fed with the latest from CNN and the Worldwide Web. For the first time we saw the pictures and watched the video clips of the attacks. We received word that our families were all safe. We copied the latest intelligence and targeting information and kept our commanders informed about the operations of the ever-growing naval presence in our area. Our modern systems gave us superb tactical advantages that allowed us to focus on our first mission - strike operations - and we used our network connections to conduct real-time information sharing with other warships. This was new for submarines, being so well



Pictured above and to the right are actual photos taken through *Providence's* periscope as she commenced some of the first Tomahawk strikes in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



connected to the outside world. For the first time, we could efficiently provide battlefield information on demand. And we had a crystal-clear picture of the world around us.

On 7 October 2001, *Providence* took part in the opening salvo of the war on terrorism. As we conducted combat operations that day, I was struck by how few differences there were from our normal training. FT3(SS) Ian Seyerley led the missile launch team while my Weapons Officer, LT Jeff Fatora, and my Navigator, LT Joe Baldi, made it all happen under the watchful eye of the XO. Joe became the force's most experienced combat photographer, logging hundreds of frames and miles of tape of our successful Tomahawk launches. Jeff's superb control of our weapons and delivery systems ensured unmatched strike performance. Throughout the month of October, as Operation Enduring Freedom unfolded, *Providence* became the strike platform of choice for rapid Tomahawk engagements. During developing combat operations, our ability to target and strike quickly enabled us to provide the Battle Force Commander with timely ordnance on target. Now I thought we were really getting into it. This kind of strike warfare was new, and it was something we had not specifically trained for. The key to our success was communications; using everything from established voice and data nets to e-mails, chat rooms, and instant messaging to get information efficiently where it needed to go. With the systems, the people, and the environment all in our favor, short-notice tasking was always met with 100 percent mission accomplishment.

Only after completing all assigned combat tasking and with Operation Enduring Freedom well underway did *Providence* depart the area with the Enterprise Battle Group and finally start the long trip home. We arrived in Italy to a hero's welcome, with USS *Emory S. Land's* wonderful crew lining the rails and tugs filling the air with water cannons. It was our first indication of the importance of what we had done, and of the incredible support we had from our shipmates and the public.

For the entirety of our participation in Operation Enduring Freedom, we relied on our training for combat success. The fighting spirit of the crew and their unmatched ability were our secret ingredients. Our day-to-day mission is combat, plain and simple. It flavors everything we do, and I mean everything. With that focus, we were able to provide our commanders with what they needed most: 100 percent on-time mission accomplishment.

CDR Bawden is currently serving as Deputy Commander, Submarine Squadron ONE in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He served as Commanding Officer of *Providence* from March 1999 to December 2001.

New Subs to Use Surface Ship Fire Control

Converted Tridents to go to sea in 2007

By Robert A. Hamilton

Groton - The converted Trident submarines that go to sea in 2007 with 154 conventional missiles will bring a piece of the surface Navy beneath the waves.

Submarines today are equipped with weapons control systems that are strained when firing 16 missiles - 12 from vertical launch tubes and four from the torpedo tubes - so the converted Tridents, to be known as SSGNs, will carry the Tactical Tomahawk Weapons Control System developed for destroyers and cruisers.

Even those systems can manage only 128 missiles, said Capt. Brian Wegner, the SSGN program manager, but it will only require a software modification to adapt it for SSGN use, and it will save millions of dollars over developing a submarine-specific weapons control system.

"We're just tacking on a couple more sets," Wegner said during the Friday luncheon meeting of the Naval Submarine League at the U.S. Submarine Veterans clubhouse.

The Navy plan to convert ballistic missile submarines to fire conventional cruise missiles will enable a Trident to head to sea with as many land attack cruise missiles as are normally carried by a complete battle group, Wegner said.

The Ohio, the first of the four to be converted, will begin its refueling overhaul about Nov. 15, and the conversion of its missile compartment about 14 months later. The process will be finished in 2006 and it will deploy for the first time the following year.

A test firing of two missiles will take place in January off the USS Florida, as well as a test deployment of a large unmanned underwater vehicle that will be sent on a 200-mile simulated mission, to test the intelligence-gathering capability of the SSGN.

The project has moved forward with exceptional speed compared to most military procurement programs, Wegner said. Just 18 months ago, it was little more than an idea, and today all four conversions are funded and the design is taking shape at Electric Boat in Groton.

Though the submarine force has considerable experience firing ballistic missiles off Tridents and conventional missiles off the smaller Los Angeles-class submarines, it will require extensive testing to make sure that the conventional missiles can be fired safely from Tridents, Wegner said.

There are significant differences in the flow of water over the two hull

types, and the Tridents will undergo extensive modifications. The missiles will be launched seven from each tube, rather than one to a tube, which will change the dynamics of a launch.

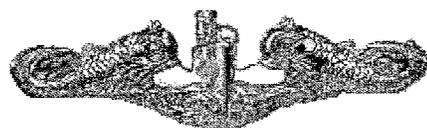
The tests will determine whether the changes will affect a launch and whether debris from a launch might be prone to fall back into the submarine, damaging the propeller or other systems.

Wegner said the design also must take into account that the Navy might want to use other types of missiles in the tubes, such as the Army Tactical Missile or a planned hypersonic missile that could reach mach 6.

"We're trying to maintain payload flexibility, so if you get a new weapon to put on the ship, you don't have to spend a lot of money and two years to get the ship to accept it," Wegner said.

The SSGN will also house up to 66 commandoes, such as Navy SEALs, Wegner said, giving them their own areas for mission planning, physical training and berthing.

Some of the missile tubes will be modified to have an opening six inches wider than the standard 24-inch tube to enable the SEALs to store larger equipment on board that could be deployed covertly, such as rubber raiding craft, he said.

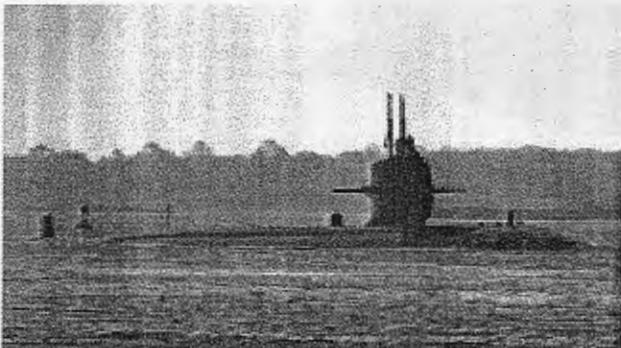


just want you to know that I am big on America!" This proud young professional was right where he wanted to be: on an operational warship getting ready to go boldly in harm's way. To my never-ending delight, for the three years I commanded *Providence*, there was never a shortage of people like Petty Officer Jenkins onboard. That spirit, more than any other thing, is what makes *Providence* the truly great warship that she is today.

Providence was near the end of her six-month deployment, and we were already counting how many miles we would have steamed by the time we returned to our homeport in Groton, Connecticut. By all normal measures, the deployment was already a resounding success. We were taking stock of our accomplishments, remembering our port calls, planning our future, and carefully navigating our ship toward Bab el Mandeb and the Red Sea. Having completed a busy tour in the CENTCOM AOR, we were ready to chop back into the word was out.

As we sprinted, I made time to meet with my Sailors in small groups. I already knew we were ready, because we had trained and practiced, and I knew what we could do. Additionally, we had been deployed for many months and had gained significant operational experience. We were at the top of our game. Everyone was concerned about their families, but it didn't stand in the way of duty. Everyone had questions about what had happened and what our role would be, but we all had studied the combat history of our Submarine Force, so we knew what was going to be required - courage and commitment. We talked about America's fighting spirit and I came to understand even better the importance of tough training, which was our standard. I knew we had trained as much and as realistically as we thought possible, and so I asked what we thought would be different, what we had not anticipated, what we should concentrate on now. The answer surprised me: nothing. Turns out I wasn't the only one on board with confidence.

My Chief of the Boat, CMDCM Sheldon McElhinney, brought the chief petty officers back to me in less than two hours. In the room with the officers and chiefs, I



USS *Providence* returns to port after a six-month deployment

Mediterranean and eventually set sail for home. We had a plan.

It was dinnertime. I went into the Radio Room after having observed the watch team transition the ship to periscope depth for routine communications and house-keeping. I was going to make a quick check of incoming messages, then head down to the wardroom for chow. I was watching the communications team as it smoothly went through the parallel procedures of sending outgoing traffic, copying incoming, making voice reports, connecting us to the SIPRNET for a quick check of e-mail, and finally logging on to GBS for a few minutes of Headline News. I was hoping to get some baseball highlights.

ET1(SS) Dustin Trask has considerably more time and experience in submarine communications than I have. The worried look on his face got my attention, because his usual style was rock-solid. "Captain, take a look," he said as the first of the message traffic came on board. Instead of the expected routine messages, what rolled out were several accounts describing in detail a coordinated terrorist attack on the United States about two hours before. "Get the XO in here," I remember saying. My Executive Officer, LCDR Tony Gamboa, knew that if I called him to Radio, something big was up. He arrived in seconds. "Captain, this is not an exercise - I'll get the officers in the wardroom," he said after reviewing the first of the messages; then he disappeared. It was immediately clear to me that we weren't going home anytime soon.

In minutes, the officers were in the wardroom. While I gave them time to read the messages, I got on the line to our Fleet Commander and stated our intentions: *Providence* was turning around and returning to the Northern Arabian Sea at maximum speed. Once there we would check in and stand ready for any and all tasking. I asked for any information we could get regarding the safety of our families. Many members of the crew had friends and family in New York City, and we all had shipmates in the Pentagon. Our commanders concurred with our plan, and we went deep and moved at maximum speed.

Back in the wardroom, now packed with officers and chief petty officers, we started our combat planning based on what we knew. We had to make all preparations to get us effectively and safely to the scene of battle, 100 percent ready to fight and win. We had to think of everything, foresee and avoid all problems, and plan it in every detail. No mistakes and no surprises. This is the art of submarine warfare, and *Providence* knows that art well. We agreed to meet again in two hours and lay out our plan. I passed the word to everyone on the 1MC. As always, unity of command starts with everyone having accurate information and understanding our mission. The

Return To:

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<http://perch-base.org>



85006+1128 14



**Join your shipmates at the Veterans Day Parade
November 11**