



UNITED STATES SUBMARINERS
(Known Herein as USSVI)

**ARIZONA SUBMARINE VETERANS
PERCH BASE**

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

REVISED January 2014

REFERENCES

1. *USSVI - Bylaws (Latest Revision)*
2. *USSVI - Constitution (Latest Revision)*
3. *USSVI – Perch Base Policies and Procedures Manual (Latest Revision)*
4. *USSVI - Policies and Procedures Manual (Latest Revision)*
5. *USSVI - Perch Base Charter (Dated 20 June 1995)*

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ARTICLE I — NAME

Section 1 — OFFICIAL NAME

The name of this chapter shall be; "ARIZONA SUBMARINE VETERANS, PERCH BASE of the UNITED STATES SUBMARINERS" (officially as UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS, INC.)

Section 2 — SYNTAX

For the purposes of this constitution and bylaws, the term "organization" shall be synonymous with; "ARIZONA SUBMARINE VETERANS, PERCH BASE of the UNITED STATES SUBMARINERS."

Section 3 — SHORTENED NAME

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 I, Section 1 above, should be used in all formal correspondence.

ARTICLE II — PURPOSE

Section 1 — PURPOSE

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 its Constitution.**
2. In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be Strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.
3. The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today.

Section 2 — CREED

The purpose of the organization shall also be known as the organization's "Creed".

ARTICLE III — POLICY

Section 1 — RESTRICTIONS

The organization shall adopt no policy in conflict with the laws and practices of the United States Government, the State of Arizona or any of its municipalities.

Section 2 — COMMUNICATIONS TO MEMBERS

1. The primary means of formal communications to Base members shall be via the quarterly Western District 1 newsletter, the "Desert 1MC."
2. The secondary method of communication shall be via special e-mails labeled "*Flash Traffic.*"
 - a. This method shall be used in lieu of the newsletter if timeliness is necessary.
3. The Perch Base web page <http://www.perch-base.org> shall be used to supplement the first two communications means and for more permanent information postings.

ARTICLE IV — BASE EMBLEM

Section 1 — DESCRIPTION

The Perch Base emblem (or Logo) is a circle with a blue outer ring with scroll bottom and the words "Arizona Submarine Veterans" above and "Perch Base" at the bottom. Within this circle is a stylized depiction of a submarine in the desert flanked by various cacti -- one with a buzzard atop -- and a steer skull. The background is comprised of mesas and a desert sunset (see image.)



Section 2 — USAGE

The Perch Base emblem shall be used under the same guidelines as the national USSVI emblem. It may worn as a patch and adorn various items that would benefit the Base. It may not be used in any effort directly critical of Perch Base or a commercial effort that does not benefit the Base.

ARTICLE V — CHARTER

Section 1 — CHARTER GRANT

Perch Base operates under a Charter granted by USSVI. Issuance of the Charter signifies authorization to carry out the purpose of the organization under the name United States Submarine Veterans, and authorizes the use of the National Emblem in carrying out that purpose.

Section 2 — REVOCATION

In accordance with reference (b) the Charter may be revoked if Perch Base fails to comply with the National Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI — FISCAL YEAR

Section 1 — PERIOD

The fiscal year of the organization shall commence on the first day of January and end on the thirty-first day of December of each year.

ARTICLE VII — MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 — GENERAL

1. Details on membership shall be defined in, and controlled by, USSVI Perch Base Policies and Procedures Manual (Latest edition), (Reference 3).
2. All members shall be bound by this Constitution and Bylaws, as well as, References (1), (2) and (3) above.
3. A member is considered in "good standing" if both national and base dues have been paid for the current year.
4. Members may join any number of Bases. One Base shall be selected as primary Base and all others as dual Base(s). Members may only vote from their primary Base in the District, Regional and National elections of the organization.

Section 2 — REGULAR MEMBERS

Regular membership is restricted to current and former U.S. Military Personnel, who have been designated "Qualified in Submarines" by authorized U.S. Navy Command Authority, or are regular members of the U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II.

Section 3 — ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

1. Associate Membership is reserved for persons not otherwise eligible for regular membership. Details on Associate Membership shall be defined in, and controlled by, the USSVI Perch Base Policies and Procedures Manual (Latest edition.)

Section 4 — LIFE MEMBERS

1. Life Membership for Perch Base USSVI shall be defined as specified in the USSVI Perch Base Policies and Procedures Manual, (Latest edition.)
2. Dues shall be as defined and specified in the USSVI Perch Base Policies and Procedures Manual, (Latest edition.)

Section 5 — HOLLAND CLUB

1. Holland Club Membership shall be the same as defined in USSVI - Constitution (Latest Revision.)
2. Base dues shall be as defined and specified in the USSVI Perch Base Policies and Procedures Manual (Latest edition), (Reference 3.)

Section 6 — HONORARY MEMBERS

1. Honorary Membership is a category of membership reserved for individuals of special merit or accomplishment. The membership is bestowed on such persons after application, by a member in good standing, is made to the Perch Base Board of Directors. The Board of Directors must vote in the majority to approve this action.
2. The annual Perch Base dues for these Honorary Members may be waived if so approved by vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII — MEMBERSHIP DUES

Section 1 — PAYMENT REQUIRED

1. Every member of the Perch Base will pay national dues as prescribed in the National Bylaws, reference (1) above.
2. Base dues will be as prescribed by USSVI Perch Base Policies and Procedures Manual, (Latest edition.)

Section 2 — DUE DATES

Dues are due and payable on January 1st each year and remain effective until December 31st the same year.

Section 3 — DUES AMOUNT

Perch Base annual dues are as prescribed by USSVI Perch Base Policies and Procedures Manual, (Latest edition.)

Section 4 — NEW MEMBER DUES

When a new member joins in the fourth quarter of the year (Oct/Nov/Dec) their dues shall be payment for the remainder of the current year and the following year as defined in the USSVI Policies and Procedures Manual (latest edition.)

ARTICLE IX — OFFICERS

Section 1 — ELECTED OFFICERS

The following officers are to be elected by the membership:

1. Base Commander
2. Base Vice Commander

Section 2 — APPOINTED OFFICERS

The following officers are appointed by the Base Commander with the advice of the presently existing Board of Directors:

1. Base Treasurer
2. Base Secretary
3. Base Chaplain
4. Membership Chairman
5. Event Coordinator
6. Base Historian
7. Communications Officer
8. Chief of the Boat
9. Base Storekeeper

Section 3 — TERMS OF OFFICE

1. The term of office for the Base Commander is limited to two consecutive two year terms
2. The term for the Base Vice Commander is an unlimited number of two year terms.
3. The two year terms of the Base Commander and Base Vice Commander shall be overlapping with Base Commander elections being held in odd years and Base Vice Commander elections being held in even years
4. All other officers may serve any number of one year terms, or until a successor is selected.

ARTICLE X — DUTIES OF BASE OFFICERS

The duties of the elected and appointed officers of Perch Base shall be as specified in by USSVI Perch Base Policies and Procedures Manual, (Latest edition.)

ARTICLE XI — BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 — MEMBERS

1. The Board of Directors (BOD) shall be comprised of the two (2) elected Perch Base Officers, the Appointed Officers and the immediate past Base Commander.
2. All of the Board members may vote on issues before the Board of Directors, with the exception of the Base Commander who may only vote only to break a tie vote.

Section 2 — PURPOSE OF BOARD

1. The BOD shall have the control and general management of the affairs and business of the organization.
2. The BOD will provide advice to the Base Commander. Further details of the BOD activities shall be specified in the USSVI Perch Base Policies and Procedures Manual, (Latest edition.)

Section 3 — REMOVAL

1. Any member of the Board of Directors may be removed from office for cause by a vote of two-thirds of the Base members responding to a special announcement, distributed to each member via e-mail or U.S. Mail in the same manner as their newsletter distribution.
2. A replacement may be appointed, from the general membership, by the Chairman or the sitting officer next in seniority, or the vacated duties may be absorbed or distributed to the remaining members as the Board may approve.

ARTICLE XII — EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1 — MEMBERS

The Executive Committee will be comprised of the Base Commander, Base vice-Commander and the immediate Past Base Commander.

Section 2 — RESPONSIBILITIES

The Executive Committee is responsible for advising and assisting the Base Commander in the conduct of Perch Base business. The Executive Committee is a working resource to the Base Commander and is tasked with assisting him in carrying out the decisions of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIII — MEETINGS

Section 1 — GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Meetings of the membership will be held at a frequency, location and time as determined by the Board of Directors and as specified in the USSVI Perch Base Policies and Procedures Manual, (Latest edition.)

Section 2 — BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors for Perch Base will meet as specified in the USSVI Perch Base Policies and Procedures Manual, (Latest edition) but not less than at least once each calendar quarter or more frequently as determined by the Board.

Section 3 — EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Executive Committee meetings will be scheduled as required by the Base Commander.

ARTICLE XIV — QUORUM

Section 1 — GENERAL MEMBERSHIP QUORUM

Five (5) members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business at a regular scheduled and announced meeting of the general membership of the Perch Base.

Section 2 — BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUORUM

A quorum for any BOD meeting shall be at least five (5) Board Members at least one (1) of which is an elected officer of the Base. If the Vice-Commander is the elected officer in attendance he shall assume the role of the Base Commander for voting purposes.

Section 3 — MAINTAINING A QUORUM

Once a quorum has been established in any meeting, no member absenting himself shall destroy the quorum.

Section 4 — QUORUM NOT ESTABLISHED

In the event of a quorum not being present, a lesser number may adjourn the meeting to some future time and date.

ARTICLE XV — VOTING

Section 1 — ELIGIBILITY

1. Each regular member in good standing shall be entitled to vote in National and Base Elections.
2. The member must be in good standing both at the time his ballot is counted and on the date of the Annual Business Meeting for National elections and at the time of the swearing in for Perch Base elections.

Section 2 — BALLOTS

Voting for National Officers and proposed amendments to the National Constitution or Bylaws will be done by mail-in ballot as prescribed in the *USSVI - Bylaws (Latest Revision)*.

Section 3 — RESTRICTIONS

There shall be no voting by proxy; any member in good standing not voting will be considered abstaining.

ARTICLE XVI — AMENDMENTS

Section 1 — PROPOSAL TO AMEND

Any member in good standing may submit proposed amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws by forwarding the proposed amendments, in writing, to the Base Secretary.

Section 2 — APPROVAL

1. The Board of Directors shall review all amendments for the good of the Base and to ensure the amendment does not conflict with the National Constitution or Bylaws. The BOD's recommendation, along with the full text of the amendment, shall be published as a Flash Traffic and read to the membership at a Base meeting before a vote shall be called on the amendment. The vote may be called for immediately after the reading.

2. Notification of the change should be reported in the Base's portion of the "Desert 1MC" following the effective date of the change.
3. Members may vote by attending the meeting in which the vote shall be called or by submitting a vote proxy.
 - a. Meeting votes shall be recorded by the Base Secretary.
 - b. A proxy must be in writing, sent either by U.S. Mail or by e-mail, to any Base officer.
 - c. The proxy must include the members name and how he wishes to vote.
4. A least two-thirds of the Base members who vote are required to approve any amendment
5. The sailing list of the voting meeting shall be cross-referenced to the proxies submitted to ensure there are no duplicates.

Section 3 — EFFECTIVE DATE

Amendments which are passed shall be sent to the District Commander for approval and will then become effective upon his approval.

ARTICLE XVII — DISSOLUTION OF BASE

Section 1 — SURRENDER OF ASSETS

In the event that the Perch Base organization is dissolved, all assets and moneys will be surrendered to the National Senior Vice Commander (First Vice President) of the US Submarine Veterans, Inc.