

American Submariners Inc.
4370 Twain Ave.
San Diego, CA 92120-3404



The Silent Sentinel *January 2018*



Our Creed and Purpose

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.

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.

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.



On December 22, 1942 PM1 Thomas Moore, performed a successful emergency appendectomy on FM2 George Platter

USS SILVERSIDES SS-236
Fourth War Patrol

U.S. Submarine Veterans San Diego Base

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The Silent Sentinel via Email

To all of my Shipmates and families who currently receive our Great newsletter via the mail who would like it sent via email or continue to receive it via mail, please fill out the form and mail it to the base or myself. We are trying to cut the cost of the newsletter down from \$3700 to about \$1900 a year. By receiving the Silent Sentinel via email will cut down the printing and mailing cost. The other plus to receiving it via email is you can save it on your computer and not have the paper lying around the house.

A subscription to the Silent Sentinel newsletter will be available to surviving family members via internet email, at no charge, upon notification of the Membership Chairman. If a printed hard-copy is preferred, via US Post Office delivery, an annual donation of \$5.00 will be requested to cover costs.

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USSVI Base Commander
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*DUE TO LOGISTICS CONSTRAINTS, ALL INPUTS FOR THE SILENT SENTINEL MUST BE IN MY HAND NO LATER THAN **ONE WEEK** AFTER THE MONTHLY MEETING. IF I DO NOT RECEIVE IT BY THIS TIME, THE ITEM WILL NOT GET IN. NO EXCEPTIONS! MIKE*

January Meeting

Our monthly meeting is held on the second Tuesday of the month at VFW Post 3787, 4370 Twain Ave., San Diego. Our next meeting will be on *January 9th*. The post is located one-half block West of Mission Gorge Road, just north of I-8. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. The E-Board meets one hour earlier at 6 p.m.

*Check us out on the World Wide Web
www.usvisandiego.org*

Binnacle List

Harry Humpreville, Joel Eikam and Glen Gerbrand

Submarine Losses in January

Originally Compiled by C J Glassford



USS Scorpion: (SS-278) Lost on Jan 5, 1944 with the loss of 77 officers and men in the East China Sea, on her 4th war patrol. It is assumed she was sunk by a mine.

USS Argonaut (SS-166): Lost on Jan 10, 1943 with the loss of 102 officers and men off Rabaul, on her 3rd war patrol. While attacking a convoy, she torpedoed a Jap destroyer who along with 2 other destroyers depth charged her. As she tried to surface, the destroyers sunk her by gun fire.

USS Swordfish (SS-193): Lost on Jan 12, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men somewhere near Okinawa, on her 13th war patrol. Probably was lost to a mine.

USS S-36 (SS-141): Lost on Jan 20, 1942 with no loss of life, on her 2nd war patrol. She ran hard aground on a reef and radioed for help. The entire crew was rescued by a Dutch ship after they scuttled her.

USS S-26 (SS-131): Lost on Jan 24, 1942 with the loss of 46 officers and men in the Gulf of Panama, on her 2nd war patrol. She was rammed by the USS PC-460 and sunk within seconds. The CO, XO and one lookout on the bridge, were the only survivors.



San Diego Base, United States Submarine Veterans Inc. Minutes of Meeting - 12 December 2017 At VFW Hall, 4370 Twain Avenue, San Diego CA 92120

1904- Base Commander Warren Branges called the meeting to order.

Conducted Opening Exercises - Pledge of Allegiance lead by Past Commander Fred Fomby
Chief of the Boat Bob Bissonnette lead the prayer.

Chief of the Boat Bob Bissonnette conducted Tolling of the Boats for boats lost in the month of December.

Junior Vice Commander Manny Burciaga recognized Past Commanders, dignitaries and guests.

Base Secretary Jack Kane announced 21 members present.

Base Treasurer Joe Peluso gave his report. A copy of the Treasurers Report will be filed with these minutes.

Minutes of the November meeting were published in the Sentinel.

Base Commander Warren Branges called for Committee Reports

Binnacle List - Base Commander reported Harry Humpreville, Joel Eikam and Glen Gerbrand on Binnacle.

Parade Committee - No Report - Chairman Joel Eikam on Binnacle

Membership Committee - Chairman Ray Febrache. We have currently have 255 base members. Yearly Membership Dues are payable by 31 December.

Scholarship Committee - Committee Chairman Paul Hitchcock was not present. Deadline for Scholarship Applications is 15 April.

Storekeeper - Paul Hitchcock has volunteered to become Storekeeper. SK inventory for turnover is scheduled for mid-December.

Breakfast Committee - Chair Base Commander Warren Branges. The next Breakfast will be 29 April 2018.

52 Boat Memorial - Chair Base Commander Warren Branges- The next "ALL FLAGS DAY" - will be 11 April 2017.

Float Committee - Chair David Kauppinen - No Report.

Eagle Scout Program - Co Chairs Nihil Smith and Glenn Gerbrand. Nihil Smith reported two Eagle Scout Presentation were made to Troop 319 and one to Troop 45. Troop 959 will do an overnight campout and submarine tours on 19 and 20 January 2018

1927 - Base Commander called for a break. 50/50 Raffle held.

1946 - Unfinished Business

Holland Club Replacement Certificate - Western Region Director Bob Bissonnette and Base Commander Warren Branges will check with National Office on status of corrected Certificate for Richard Vannoy.

Baja Fishing Trip Fund Raiser - David Ball was not in attendance. Recap of Fund Raiser. 300 tickets @ \$10 per ticket. First Prize 2 Day Baja Fishing Trip with 3 day stay at Old Mill Hotel in San Quintin Baja or \$500. 2nd Place - Prize not claimed by 1st Place winner. 3rd Place \$100. The drawing was postponed we need to sell a few more ticket to make the drawing a viable endeavor. We have sold 156 to date. The drawing will held at the March or April Base Meeting.

Annual Christmas Party - Was held at the VFW Hall, 4370 Twain Avenue, San Diego on Saturday, 2 December 2017. We served sixty-seven paid meals. The Raffle held a the Christmas Party nearly offset the cost of the function. Next year's party will be 8 or 15 December 2018, depending on availability of the VFW Hall. Base Commander Warren Branges will make arrangements this week.

2018 Membership Drive of Active Duty Submariners. Base Commander Warren Branges met with COMSUBRON 11 Command Master Chief. "Rolling out" details will be forthcoming.

Monthly Meeting as LUNCH/BRUNCH. The Base Commander will work on setting up the March/April Meeting as a Saturday Lunch/Brunch. We were unable to find a suitable venue to hold at Saturday meeting in November.

Member donations to the Hurricane Harvey/Irma Relief Fund stands at \$492+. All funds raised will be

sent to National in January 2018.

99 for 99 Scorpion Fund will benefit the 2018 Scorpion Memorial in Norfolk. 2018 is the 50th Anniversary of the loss of Scorpion. Each Base is asked to donate \$99 to the fund. National is donating \$999. A motion was made and passed to donate \$99 from San Diego Base. Junior Vice Manny Burciaga will be attending the 50th Year Memorial Observance in Norfolk. The Ceremony will be in May 2018. Manny will let the member's know the exact date at the next meeting.

NAVY MUSEUM in ALPINE. Base Secretary Jack Kane will contact Terry Ulmer about touring his property in Puetz Valley. Juanita Williams reported that Terry has facilities for an outdoor picnic/luncheon/pot luck. We will Terry if having a half-day outing including a picnic/Base Meeting would be feasible on Saturday 17 March or Saturday 24 March.

Wreath Laying for Submarine F1. - This evolution was cancelled as DSU assets were deployed in support of the search for ARA San Juan.

Parade and Static Display Schedule. The Base Secretary Jack Kane handed out a tentative list of Parades and Static Displays for 2018. Please look at the list and pick your top four or five. We will need to cut the number of commitments for 2018 due to personnel and insurance liability concerns.

2005 - New Business

Preparation of 2018 Budget and Plan of Events. Ways and Means Committee - Base Commander and Junior Vice Commander will meet this month to prepare this Report for Membership approval at January meeting.

End of Year Report - Base Treasurer Joe Peluso is preparing this Report to send to National.

The Submarine Birthday Ball has been rescheduled for 12 May 2018 vice 21 April 2108. The Ball will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in San Diego. We will take up the question of sponsoring WWII Submarine Veterans attendance during the January or February meeting.

The Old Timers Luncheon for 2018 is rescheduled for Friday, 11 May 2018 vice Friday, 20 April 2018. We will provide Tolling of the Bell Ceremony.

Memorial Day Ceremony at Roncador on 28 May 2018. Scamp Base will no longer support this ceremony. San Diego Base will take over planning and holding this Ceremony. Base Commander Warren Branges will be asking for volunteers to help with the Ceremony.

SUBVET Picnic - The Members present agreed to hold the Annual SUBVET Picnic at Smuggler's Cove on Naval Base Point Loma. Base Commander Warren Branges will contact the Base and reserve a date in mid-July. More information at subsequent meetings.

New Item for Base Store. The Base Commander Warren Branges presented a proposal to have the Base Store stock SAN DIEGO BASE Glassware (Tumblers and Pint Glasses). A logo was proposed. A motion was made and passed to order glasses for sale at the Base Store. Initial order will be 12 dozen of each type.

2015 - Good of the Order

Shipmate Russ Fillbeck was featured in Wood Magazine.

Shipmate JJ Lynch gave a book review.

Thee Meeting was adjourned at 2036.

/s/ Jack E. Kane

Jack Kane, Secretary

Sailing List for 12 December 2017

Fred Fomby

Bob Farrell

Bob Bissonnette

Warren Branges

Jack Kane

Chris Stafford

Jim Harer

Matt Baumann

Joe Peluso

Mert Weltzien

Nihil D. Smith
 Bill Earl
 Manny Burciaga
 Russ Fillbeck
 Ray Febrache
 Dennis Mortensen
 JJ Lynch
 Ed Farley
 Mike Hyman
 Richard Vannoy
 Ron Gorence

Current News

“Plataginet, I will; and like thee, Nero,
 Play on the lute, beholding the towns burn” (*Henry VI*, Shakespeare)

North Korea Seems Able To Speed Up Submarine Weapons Checks, Including To Nuclear Menace Staff, Kaplan Herald, January 1

There are signs that submarine missile program is expanding as it prepares its second test, adding to the risk that the nuclear-armed country could one day threaten the U.S. or its Asian allies with yet another powerful weapon in its arsenal.

Experts suggest North Korea having fully submersible submarines firing a nuclear ballistic missile pose a dangerous scenario because they could offer the hermit regime a better chance of survival and might be harder to detect. It comes on the heels of a road-mobile weapon the state-owned KCNA media claimed could carry a “super-large heavy warhead, which is capable of striking the whole mainland of the U.S.”

The North Koreans appear to be getting more aggressive on submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) development and now have several shipyards active in the offshore-weapons program. The North is not believed to have the capability today to launch multiple ballistic missiles from a submarine. However, experts say the totalitarian state is working at a feverish pace and could have this submersible as early as next year.

“If North Korea can deploy not only developmentally a submarine-launched ballistic missile that is effective and deploy it on ballistic missile submarines, it certainly complicates defense against missile attacks,” defense analyst Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., co-founder and CEO of Colorado-based imagery analysis firm KPA Associates LLC, told CNBC in an interview Friday.

In a , he revealed that “commercial satellite imagery from Nov. 11, 16 and 24 show that North Korea’s second submersible ballistic missile test stand barge — a platform that allows for underwater missile launches outside of submarines — located at the Nampo Navy Shipyard is being prepared to enter service.”

38 North, a project of the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, said the “second missile test stand barge [is] almost operational.” Bermudez wrote, “Once in service, this barge will help facilitate a broader SLBM testing regime and potentially establish a SLBM capability within the West Sea fleet [of North Korea’s navy].”

Bermudez, a 38 North contractor, explained that the test stand barge and platform are used to simulate the weapons that would be inside the submarine because it’s considered too dangerous and costly to do such early testing inside a real submarine. He also said that the North Koreans know the U.S. military is watching its SLBM and submarine development so they have been doing things to mitigate the satellite surveillance capabilities, including resorting to concealment in some cases.

Still, Bermudez called the Nampo shipyard activities on the regime’s west coast “a strong indicator that Pyongyang is advancing” in its SLBM program. And he said the North Koreans will need a series of tests from the submersible barge before deploying ballistic missiles on submarines.

and reportedly flew one missile at least 500 kilometers (or about 300 miles), according to South Korea’s Yonhap news agency. Sinpo, located on the country’s northeast coast, also is where the North reportedly has renovated large buildings that might be involved in the construction of a new SLBM-capable submarine.

The Sinpo-class experimental submarine that the North Koreans have today is believed to be up to about 2,000 tons and have a nautical range of about 2,800 kilometers (about 1,500 miles). Yet it features just a single launch tube and Bermudez said “no one considers that an operational capability.”

According to Bermudez, Pyongyang is apparently building a submarine that will feature multiple tubes for ballistic missiles and greater capability at sea. He estimated the new submarine “could be launched

To be clear, though, he said just because the submarine may launch doesn't necessarily mean it's fully operational. The expert explained how it typically takes a year or two after the submarine is launched that it "truly becomes operational" because it will go through a range of sea trials and necessary crew training.

Even so, having the submarine-launched ballistic missiles with nuclear capability is potentially a nightmare scenario for and . That's because the submarines could potentially avoid detection by some of the most advanced defense systems.

For example, missiles fired by North Korean submarines off the east coast of Japan could potentially dodge detection from Japan's Patriot anti-missile system by launching from behind radar. At present, the detection is focused on missiles coming from land-based missiles in North Korea.

Similarly, the current THAAD anti-missile system deployed by the U.S. in South Korea is focused on identifying missile threats from the North. As a result, a .

"Up to now we've only had to worry about them coming from north to south or from west to east in the case of Japan and the United States," said Bermudez. "If they deploy a ballistic missile submarine with operational missiles, it can come from almost any direction around the peninsula."

Experts say U.S. bases in the Western Pacific, including Guam, also are potentially at risk if North Korea deploys submarines with SLBM weapons. At this point, though, it's not believed that the North Korean submarines have a range to reach the United States mainland.

That said, if the North's submarines could reach closer to the U.S. West Coast they would not need an intercontinental ballistic missile to threaten major American cities, says Loren Thompson, a defense industry consultant and chief operating officer of the Lexington Institute, a Virginia-based public-policy think tank.

"The biggest problem the U.S. faces in dealing with a North Korean nuclear launch is that you can't stop it if you don't know where it's coming from," Thompson said. "That is why the North Koreans are building mobile missile launchers on land and why they're trying to develop the ability to launch from under the seas."

At the end of the day, Thompson said what the North Koreans want is something the United States has in its nuclear arsenal — "a survivable retaliatory capability. If it's at sea, they might be very well obtain it."

But he said technological hurdles in developing a submarine with multiple ballistic missiles is rather challenging. That may be one reason North Korean hackers last year reportedly

"You can't just launch the missile," Thompson said. "The exhaust will destroy the submarine. You have to push it into the air with gas, like compressed oxygen, and then ignite it once it's in the air. That is just more more complicated than launching from a land base."

North Korea's largest submarines at present include the so-called Romeo-class submersibles that are based on an old design from the Soviet Union. The 1,800-ton vessels are considered relatively easy to detect using anti-submarine warfare technology available to the U.S. and its Asian allies.

In fact, North Korean leader has been featured in state-run media taking tours and riding on board the green-painted Romeo-class submarines operated by the North's navy. Some estimates are the North has around 20 of the Romeo-class submarines.

The North Koreans also are known to have some 50 smaller submarines that are harder to detect and can sink ships with torpedoes. One of those submarines was believed to be responsible for , resulting in the deaths of 46 sailors.

USS Argonaut (SS-166) - Perpetuating the Memory

by David Kauppinen

The USS Argonaut (V-4) (SS-166) was a V Class submarine commissioned April 2, 1928 at Portsmouth Navy Yard, Maine, with Lieutenant Commander W. M. Quigley in command.



V-4 was a second generation V boat and the largest non-nuclear submarine ever built for the US Navy at 358 feet long, a beam of 33 feet 9.5 inches, a displacement of 4,228 tons submerged, a test depth of 300 feet, and a 9,000 mile range. Since her original purpose was a long range submarine cruiser and minelayer, she had four 21 inch forward torpedo tubes and two 40 inch stern minelaying tubes. The V-4 carried 60 mines including 4 in each tube, and could lay 8 mines in 10 minutes. She also had two 6 inch X 52 caliber (26 feet long) deck guns which was the normal armament of U.S. Navy Cruisers at the time.



In 1931 the V-4 was featured in the John Ford movie "The Seas Beneath" as a fictional WWI German submarine.

In June 1932 the Argonaut became part of SubRon 4 based at Pearl Harbor. In 1938, a young officer named Richard O'Kane came aboard Argonaut, qualified, and spent four years on the sub. Dick was later awarded a Medal of Honor for his actions as Commander of the USS Tang (SS-306), the most successful submarine in WWII.

First War Patrol: When the Pearl Harbor attack occurred on December 7, 1941, the USS Argonaut was already on patrol with the USS Trout (SS-202) as Midway Defense Group 7.2. That same day two Japanese destroyers began shelling Midway Island, and the Argonaut attempted a surface approach, but poor maneuverability due to her size prevented firing, and she was forced down by the destroyers. When Argonaut surfaced again at dawn the next day to recharge batteries, she was unsuccessfully attacked by a U.S. plane from Midway Island.

After those Midway contacts, the crew practiced and was able to get the boat diving time down to 52 seconds by coordinated pumping between the forward and after ballast tanks. However, this duration was still considered too slow to avoid hostile planes. While continuing to patrol Midway the dehumidifiers malfunctioned, and the resulting condensation caused multiple electrical fires and loss of equipment. On January 20, 1942, the USS Argonaut rendezvoused with the USS Litchfield (DD-336) and was escorted back to Pearl Harbor. From there she returned to Mare Island where the sub was converted to a troop transport; the minelaying equipment was removed, two stern torpedo tubes were added, diesel generators upgraded, new electronics added, and a Torpedo Data Computer (TDC) installed. By August 1942, the USS Argonaut (V-4/SS-166) was back at Pearl Harbor with her new C.O., Lieutenant Commander John R. Pierce.

Second War Patrol: On August 8, the USS Argonaut (SS-166) and the USS Nautilus (V-6/SS-168) transported 211 Carlson's Marine Raiders of the 2nd Marine Raiders Battalion to Makin Island. Their two day mission was to destroy Japanese installations, take prisoners, gain intelligence, and divert attention from U.S. Marine landings on Guadalcanal. (Note: The four Marine Raider battalions active during WWII were elite amphibious special operations forces that landed and operated behind enemy lines. The units were disbanded in January 1944, because they were considered obsolete. However, in 2014, the Marine Corp Special Operations Command [MARCSOC] was renamed the Marine Raider Regiment.)



In September 1942, the USS Argonaut was transferred to her new base at Brisbane, Australia. **Third War Patrol:** In December she departed to the area between Bougainville and New Britain in the Bismarck Archipelago. As witnessed by a U.S. Army B-25 returning from a bombing mission on January 10, 1943, the USS Argonaut attacked a five ship convoy that was escorted by three destroyers. Two of the destroyers attacked with depth charges and deck guns, and ultimately sank the submarine with her crew of 102 men. This became the worst loss of life for an American submarine in WWII.

A lasting legacy: Before leaving on her third war patrol, the crew of the USS Argonaut donated the ship's bell which still rings today for services at the Submarine Memorial Chapel, Sub Base Pearl Harbor.



On January 15, 1945, the USS Argonaut (SS-475), a Tench Class submarine was commissioned. Argo II served the U.S. Navy until 1968.



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