

American Submariners Inc.  
Silent Sentinel  
c/o VFW Post 3787  
4370 Twain Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92120-3404

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 445  
Chula Vista, CA



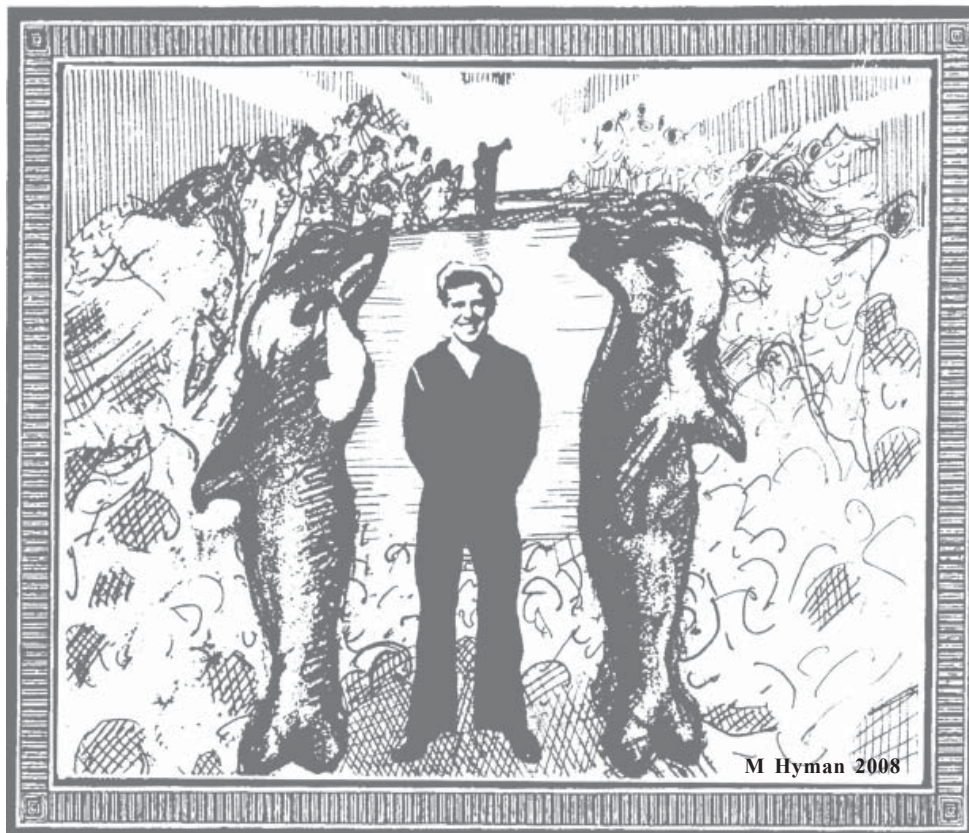
## *The Silent Sentinel*

March 2008



### *Our Creed*

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 towards greater accomplishment and patriotism to the United States of America



In Memory of Joe McGrievy, 14 June 1918 - 18 February 2008

# U.S. Submarine Veterans San Diego Base

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## ***Do not Miss Movement!***

***All submittals for the next Silent Sentinel must be received by the date indicated on page four. Entries received after the due date will be printed in the following month's issue, space permitting. Acceptable format for text files are TXT and DOC (not DOC1). Questions? Call me at 619-980-0846.***

***Mike, Editor***

# 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.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Would like the SILENT SENTINEL emailed: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Robert Bissonnette  
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USSVI Base Commander  
c/o VFW Post 3787  
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## Commanders' Corner

Hello there Shipmates! I have some sad news to report to all of you. A close dear shipmate and Submariner past away on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February. As you all might know it was CDR Joseph McGrievy, USN (Retired). He was 89 years old. He was my mentor and one of the two shipmates who recruited me into our great organization of UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERNS, INC and an associate member of UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERNS WORLD WAR II.

Joe lived for the Submarine Service and held everyone who was involved in the Submarine Service close to his heart and soul. Joe would dedicate all effects to support any and all events involving either SUBVETS organizations. I, as most of you, will miss Joe deeply and dearly. He will be greatly missed by the Submarine Force. I cannot speak more highly of this Great man and Shipmate. CDR Joe McGrievy, Thank you for all that you have done and for being my friend.

Something on an up note, we held our elections and thank to all the newly elected officers and thanks to the officers who carried over. We, as the eboard will continue to improve our base and our membership. We have a long road ahead of us with the convention just around the corner and all the teamwork needed to make this convention the most successful one.

I want to Thank CAPT PATTON for his visit to last month meeting and his great speech on current event and the Sub base. Sir, you are always welcome to come on down and have a beer with us.

Just a reminder, at the end of March we will have our Sunday breakfast. Hope to see you all there. Until next month I hope everyone stays safe.

Bob Bissonnette  
Base Commander

### Upcoming Events:

- 08 Mar – Satellite get together at the HUB on SUBASE 10am
- 11 Mar – Eboard MTG 6pm at the VFW
- 11 Mar – Business MTG/Induction of new Officers 7pm at the VFW (unless a dinner is planned – Will be announced)
- 29 Mar – Newsletter Collate Party at the VFW 9am
- 30 Mar – Sunday USSVI San Diego Base Breakfast at the VFW 8am-Noon

**SEE OR CALL MIKE HYMAN, 619-980-0846, FOR ALL YOUR SUBMARINE STORES NEEDS. ASK ABOUT THE SPECIAL OF THE MONTH. SHIPPING IS AVAILABLE FOR "ANY" SIZE ORDER. *Mike***

***ALL INPUTS FOR THE APRIL 2008 SILENT SENTINEL MUST BE IN MY HAND BY THE 22<sup>ND</sup> OF MARCH! IT HAS TO BE RECEIVED BY ME BY THIS DATE. I CANNOT ACCEPT SUBMITTALS FOR THE APRIL ISSUE ANY LATER, SO GET THEM IN EARLY. MIKE***

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

### ***March Meeting***

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at VFW Post 3787, 4370 Twain Ave., San Diego. Our next one is on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The post is located one half block West of Mission Gorge Road, just north of I-8. The meeting starts promptly at 1900. The "E" Board meets one hour earlier (at 1800).

***HAVE FUN AND HELP SUBVETS SAN DIEGO AT THE SAME TIME!***

HELP COLLATE THE SILENT SENTINEL IN ORDER TO KEEP COSTS DOWN.

THE APRIL 2008 EDITION SILENT SENTINEL COLLATE PARTY WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 29<sup>th</sup>, 0900, AT THE TWAIN AVENUE VFW.

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## **BINNACLE LIST**

Mike Hyman  
C J Glassford  
Chuck George  
Larry Freske

Submitted by Mike Hyman



## SUBMARINE FORCE LOSSES FEBRUARY

BARBEL. [Bell] (SS 316) - 81 Men on Board:  
Sunk, on 4 February 1945, by Japanese Naval Aircraft, In South China Sea, Palawan Passage:  
“ ALL HANDS LOST “

SHARK # 1 .[Bell] (SS 174) - 58 Men on Board:  
Sunk, on 11 February 1942, by Japanese Destroyer, in Makassar Strait, 120 Miles  
East of Manado, in the Celebes Sea :  
“ ALL HANDS LOST “

AMBERJACK [Bell] (SS 219) - 74 Men on Board:  
Probably Sunk, on 14 February 1943, by Combined Efforts of a Japanese Seaplane,  
Torpedo Boat, and Submarine Chaser, Off Cape St. George, New Britain:  
“ ALL HANDS LOST “

POMODON [Bell} (SS486) - Duty Section on Board  
Battery Explosion and Fire, on 21 February 1955, from Hydrogen Buildup during  
Recharging of batteries, At San Francisco Naval Shipyard :  
“ 5 MEN LOST “

GRAYBACK [Bell] (SS 208) - 80 Men on Board:  
Probably Succumbed, on 27 February 1944, to Damage Inflicted, by Land Based  
Japanese Naval Aircraft suffered the day before, in the East China Sea:  
“ ALL HANDS LOST “

TROUT [Bell] (SS 202) - 81 Men on Board:  
Most likely Sunk, on 29 February 1944, by Japanese Destroyer, in the Philippine Sea Area, Off  
Formosa:  
“ ALL HANDS LOST “



Submitted by C J Glassford



## CJ Glassford Suffers Heart Attack

CJ Glassford is currently in Cardiac ICU at Balboa Naval Hospital after suffering a major heart attack this week. According to his doctor, a large area of the front of the heart has been weakened.

As I write this (Sunday, 24 February), CJ is in an induced coma. He has improved slightly since the initial event but in the words of his doctor, he is a very, very sick man.

Medical personnel will be bringing CJ out of the coma state on Monday or Tuesday. Fortunately, CJ did not suffer any brain or kidney damage as a result of the heart attack.

I am sure that you all are aware that CJ and Joe McGrievy were very, very close. CJ had been complaining of shortness of breath and lack of energy for a while; however, as long as Joe was sick, CJ wanted to be available in order to help him.

Please keep CJ in prayer. *M. Hyman*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### “MONTHLY MEETINGS – SD BASE”

Tuesday = 11 Mar 2008 = E-board 6PM = Base Meeting 7PM  
 Tuesday = 15 Apr 2008 = E-board 6Pm = Base Meeting 7PM  
 Tuesday = 13 May 2008 = E-board 6PM = Base Meeting 7PM  
 Tuesday = 10 Jun 2008 = E-board 6PM = Base Meeting 7PM  
 Tuesday = 08 Jul 2008 = E-board 6PM = Base Meeting 7PM

#### “OLD TIMERS LUNCHEON “

Friday = 18 Apr 2008 = Harbor Inn Sub Base Point Loma  
 10:00AM = Opening Ceremonies  
 10:30AM = Tolling of the Boats  
 12:00PM = Luncheon  
 13:00PM = Guest Speaker (Captain Patton)  
 14:00Pm = Closing Remarks

#### “SUBMARINE BIRTHDAY BALL “

Saturday = 19 April 2008 = Airport Sheraton Hotel SD  
 18:00PM = No Host Cocktails  
 19:00PM = Opening Ceremonies  
 19:30PM = Dinner  
 20:00PM = Cake Cutting  
 20:15PM = Guest Speaker – VADM “Big Al” Konetzni  
 21:00PM = Dancing  
 22:00PM = Closing Ceremonies

“ RIVERSIDE PARADE “

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Saturday = 9 April 2008 = Riverside Community College  
07:00AM = Meet in Parking Lot  
\* Details to be announced as received as to  
Parade position in lineup

(continued next page)

“ SAILOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS ”

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This event is usually held in April at the Harbor Inn on the Point Loma Naval Base. At this time there is no available information as to time and place. Information will be forwarded as soon as it is received

“ MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE ”

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Monday = 26 May 2008 = Roncador Memorial, Sub Base SD  
10:00Am = Opening Ceremonies  
10:30Am = Tolling of the Boats  
11:00AM = Guest Speaker Remarks  
11:30AM = Wreath Laying Ceremony at Sea  
12:00PM = Refreshments

“ LA MESA FLAG DAY PARADE ”

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Saturday = 31 May 2008 = Downtown La Mesa. CA  
09:00Am = Staging area (Same as last year)  
09:30AM = Float judging contest  
10:00AM = Parade kickoff

“ JULIAN 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY PARADE “

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Thursday = 3 July 2008 = Downtown Julian, CA  
10:00AM = Assemble at Julian High School  
10:00AM = Float Judging Awards  
11:00AM = Parade Kickoff  
12:30PM = BBQ at American Legion Hall

\*\*\*\*\*

PLEASE RETAIN A COPY OF THIS INFO  
FOR YOUR PERSONAL REFERENCE  
*Submitted by CJ Glassford*



## Church Service and Memorial Ceremony for Joe McGrievy

To the best of my knowledge, the church service for Joe will be held at St. Martin's Catholic Church, 7710 El Cajon Blvd., La Mesa, CA (intersection of La Mesa Blvd. and El Cajon Blvd.) on 12 March 2008 at 10:30 a.m.

The memorial service will be held afterwards either at the Point Loma Naval Base (Sub Base) or at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, Point Loma. As of this writing, I have not received information concerning the specific location.

*Mike Hyman*



# Joseph L. McGrievy 14 June 1918 - 18 February 2008



Photo: Doug Smay

## San Diego Submarine Veterans Meeting for February 12, 08

1855 Meeting called to order by Base Commander Bob Bissonnette.

Conducted opening exercises: Pledge of Allegiance  
Tolling of the Boats  
USS BARBEL SS 316  
USS SHARK SS 174  
USS AMBERJACK SS219  
USS GRAYBACK SS208  
USS TROUT SS202  
USS POMODON SS486

All hands observe a moment of silent prayer.

E-Board members present and presenting new members and guests by the Junior Vice Commander:

We have 3 guests this evening: David Nelson, Jim Dunon and Capt Patton.

Secretary reported members attend 29 with 3 guests.

Base Commander introduced special guest speaker: Captain M. Patton, Commanding Officer, Point Loma Submarine Base, San Diego, Ca.

1945 Meeting adjourned for break...

2000 Meeting called to order and conducted 50/50 drawing.  
Treasures report: Report will be published into the Sentinel.  
Secretary minutes have been published in the last Sentinel if no questions minutes are accepted.

Cmdr requested base Chaplin present the Binnacle list:

Chaplin reported we had two shipmates depart on eternal patrol.  
John Wayne Philpot, 1 Feb 2008, he was 87 years old.  
George Franceschiello, RMC(SS)

Binnacle listed posted:

Mike Hyman, Chuck George, Larry Freske, and Al Stunk.  
Joe McGrievy, is seriously ill, he is unable to eat or take medication. He has limited mobility and he has been checked in to the hospital. Please join us in prayer for Joe.

Parade Chairman, no update.

Membership committee:

At the present time we have seventeen members behind in dues payment. I will be publishing the list in the next Sentinel. We plan to write a letter to each individual giving them a chance to bring their dues current before they are removed from the active member list.

Scholarship Committee:

We have not received any applications for Scholarship funds. If anyone knows of a candidate please have them submit applications.

Convention Committee: (Mike Hacking)

We have begun the planning stage and will have another planning meeting in Escondido

with the Scamp Base. The next focus will be on budgeting for the convention. Mike Hyman has submitted a primary drawing for the conventions official patch. Fund raising is now in focus. We have obtained a great deal from the Town and Country for rooms and convention support. However, we are being hit hard on the catering service. We continue to need volunteers for different committees.

Breakfast Committee:

Next Breakfast will be on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. We need volunteers to help serve and cook the breakfast.

Unfinished Business:

Charlie Marin opened the floor for new elections. There was no new nominee for existing offices. Charlie called for nominations to be closed, since there is only one candidate for each office with not objections a voice vote is authorized.

Each candidate was passed with a voice vote.

Unfinished Business:

A Savin printer has been given to the base by Point Loma Nazarene University. The base Commander went over the cost for maintaining this unit. This is only information for the membership and did not require a vote or approval. It was point out that the base has no secure location for this printer. Fred Fomby has volunteered his garage to maintain the printer.

New Business:

The base Commander suggested we have a dinner meeting to indoc new nominees. It was suggested we have the dinner here at the VFW. Ron Gorence suggested we go to dinner at a nice location and opened the floor to any suggestions. Fred said he would check the Sizzler in Point Loma area. The Harbor Inn was suggested. Ron will check the club at Miramar.

Good of the Order:

Don Philpot has been nominated to the Holland Club.

Reminder: New rules now allow veterans to salute the flag during the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Earl stood and thanked the membership for their concern and sympathy for the death of his wife.

2025 Meeting was adjourned by the Base Commander.

Sailing list:

FRED FOMBY  
CJ CLASSFORD  
CHARLIE MARIN  
PHILL RICHESON  
CLIFF BRITT  
BOB FARRELL  
ED FARLEY  
BILL EARL  
JOE DUBOIS  
DICK MCGUIRE  
MIKE HACKING  
DAVID NEILSON  
RAY FERBRACHE

MANNY BURCIAGA  
BOB BISSONNETTE  
EVERETT MAUGER  
PETE BERG  
FRED DEWITT  
JACK KANE  
GR PRINCE  
RJ FULLEN  
JIM TREGURTHA  
RON GORENCE  
HARLAN DEGOOD  
JIM DOONAN  
MATT BAUMANN

M D PATTON  
CHUCK BABCOCK  
PAUL HITCHCOCK  
CHRIS SULTANA

## *In Memory of Joe*

A good shipmate, a close friend: this is Joe McGrievy.

Is and not was? Frankly, I am not willing to let his life be simply a paragraph in the history books. Were existence only this, what would be the point of it?

A person's worth stays with us long after the human shell fades away. Think of the good which this man did for his country, his shipmates, the Submarine Service, Subvets WW-II, and Subvets Inc. Contemplate how lovingly he took care of his wife, Lil, and how well he raised his children.

But remembering his name once a year or once a month is not enough. Moreover, naming memorials and scholarships to perpetuate the memory of Joe is a noble endeavor but it still would fall short of the true mark.

If Joe has made a positive impact on our lives, then the only way we can now act is to integrate his thoughts and deeds as a role model for our own—and this is an ongoing task. It is also sometimes a hard thing to do for it's often easier just to go our own way and to only give his memory lip service—in particular, I am referring to the Tolling of the Boats Ceremony.

Joe had performed the Tolling of the Boats Ceremony for many years on Memorial Day, at the Old Timer's Luncheon, and also at each Submarine Birthday Ball. He was one of the ceremony's original authors (as well as a founding member of Subvets WW-II and Subvets Inc). He firmly believed that the method in which he performed the ceremony (with help from C. J. Glassford) was the proper way for doing it. And why shouldn't Joe have believed this? The man helped write and set the protocol for the ceremony since its conception. If we say that we respect and honor Joe's memory—or that of any other WW-II Submarine Veteran—then let our future deeds show it. Don't change the method of presentation or modify the ceremony text for brevity or for the sake of convenience—to do so makes us hypocrites. Keeping tradition alive is the only thing we have at our disposal to perpetuate memory. We have the protocol and the exact text of the ceremony well documented. Let's continue to use it!

The older we get, the more painful it becomes to see our old friends fade and die. It hurts us terribly because we feel helpless. On one hand we do not want them to suffer needlessly and on the other, we do not want them to leave us. But leave us they do. Nonetheless, in the total scheme of things, I believe that they can live on in our lives—but only if we follow their wishes, emulate their actions, and think of them constantly.

It's a challenging task—doing the right and good thing is oftentimes not easy. But the benefits are well worth the effort, allowing us to experience the God given gift of modifying grief into joy and embedding true value into our lives.

*Michael Hyman*



## **Silent Sentinel Subscription for Surviving Family Members**

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.

Ron Gorence

## **Final Report on the Future of Military Health Care**

*Task Force Recommends Breaking the Promise*

Please send the following message to your elected officials:

As your constituent, I am most concerned about the continuing Administration efforts to shift disproportionate costs of the military health services system (TRICARE) to its beneficiaries.

As a military retiree, I am well aware of these health care benefits. Retirees earned them and our military pay was suppressed because of the intangibles represented by "total military compensation" which was based on those promised retirement benefits being available to us and to our families. Similarly our active duty men and women rely on the continued commitment of our government to provide them these benefits in exchange for a military service career to our nation.

This past December, the DoD Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care submitted its final report, echoing the Administration's call for military retirees to pay more for their "earned" benefits. The Task Force recommended/echoed every outrageous increase the Pentagon asked for and even went a step further - it recommended enrollment fees for both TRICARE Standard and TRICARE FOR LIFE!

## **Design Work On New SSBN To Begin Soon**

**Navy, DARPA Want \$35 Million To Develop Tango Bravo, Next-Gen Sub**

*By Dan Taylor, Inside the Navy, February 18, 2008*

The Navy and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency have asked for more than \$35 million in the proposed fiscal year 2009 budget to begin concept work on the next-generation submarine to replace the service's aging Ohio-class ballistic missile subs, according to budget documents.

Central to that effort is Tango Bravo, a DARPA project to introduce quieter shaftless propulsion, external stowing and launching of torpedoes to save space and the use of electric actuators to replace the sub's hydraulics and pneumatics.

DARPA has asked for \$20.7 million to develop Tango Bravo in FY-09, up from \$17.9 million in FY-08 and \$12 million in FY-07, DARPA spokeswoman Jan Walker said in a Feb. 11 e-mail response to questions from Inside the Navy.

The Navy has asked for \$15.3 million which will be used for "future submarine designs and will begin the long-lead concept work on the next undersea strategic deterrent platform, for which design work must begin in earnest early next decade," according to the Navy's FY-09 budget justification sheet.

The work will include "concept studies and mission utility studies for variant submarine designs, including [Virginia-class submarine] derivatives," the document states.

The document notes that in FY-07, small-scale Tango Bravo demonstrations and concept development were completed. In FY-08, the Navy plans to complete component-level Tango Bravo technology demonstrations; demonstrate maneuvering and sea-keeping aspects of shaftless propulsion on a small scale; assess go/no go for a Tango Bravo phase three shaftless propulsion award; and continue developing technologies to support the undersea superiority initiative, it states.

Generally, the money the Navy is asking for will be spent on "completing Tango Bravo prototype-level demonstrations and commencing the submarine shaftless stern demonstrator program," Navy spokeswoman Lt. Karne Eifert told ITN Feb. 8.



The Navy must complete concept work soon in order for design to commence in the decade. Ohio-class submarines begin retiring in FY-27, “requiring construction of a replacement SSBN beginning in [FY-19],” according to the recently released 30-year shipbuilding plan.

“Any delay in construction will impact the Navy’s ability to meet U.S. Strategic Command’s (USSTRATCOM) Sea-Based Strategic Deterrent requirement,” the plan states.

General Dynamics Electric Boat is conducting work on the shaftless-propulsion project, which is currently in the second phase and will move on to phase three pending an evaluation later this year, said Walker.

GD is trying to demonstrate that shaftless propulsion – which would involve an integrated electric motor and propulsor located outside the sub’s hull, with the associated motor driver and control located inside – can meet submarine design size and weight constraints, efficiency goals and acoustic requirements, she added.

The phase-two work for that project involves completing the detail design for a model-scale and intermediate-scale shaftless-propulsion system, she said.

GD is working on another key part of Tango Bravo – the electric actuator project, according to Walker.

The goal of the project is “to demonstrate independently controlled X-planes directly actuated by a permanent magnet motor,” she said.

Phase two of that project began in April and is scheduled for completion in October. It involves developing the actuator’s motor drive and energy-storage systems and packaging the actuator so it can withstand sea water, she said.

Finally, Northrop Grumman Newport News heads an effort to build an external stow-and-launch system. The company is working to demonstrate that an external weapon launch concept can deliver a heavyweight torpedo from outside the hull at speed and depth, Walker said.

That work is in its second phase and is scheduled for completion in October. Phase two involves refining the concept design and manufacturing a full-scale launcher test unit, she said.

## **Court Injunctions On Sonar Bad For Training Roughead: Navy Looking For A Ceiling Over The 313-Ship Floor**

*By Dan Taylor, Inside the Navy, February 18, 2008*

Navy officials are working to determine what the maximum number of ships would be over the 313-ship floor that would constitute an ideal naval fleet, Adm. Gary Roughead, chief of naval operations, told reporters at a roundtable meeting at the Pentagon Feb. 12.

“You know, as I’ve said, 313 is the floor,” he said. “We’re looking at, you know, if you have a floor, the question is, well, where do you think the ceiling would be? We’re doing some work to see what that might be.”

But the Navy should focus first on reaching that floor, he added. The many fiscal limitations out there forces the Navy to “put in there what we need, not what we want,” he said.

“There’s no question that the shipbuilding program is very expensive – that ships today are very expensive,” he said. “We have to inject in our process the discipline, the control, the requirements that we place into the ships.”

One way to get ship costs down may be to explore the option of using more common hull forms, he said.

“We can no longer design a different ship for every different mission that we have,” he said. “So those are some of the things that will enable us to close in on that 313 number.”

Later, Roughead turned to the growing threat of quiet submarines and emphasized the importance of using active sonar to combat that threat.

“The idea that the submarine was a Cold War weapon is just not true,” he said. “And it’s not just navies in South America, but if you look around the world, submarines are proliferating – the capabilities that are resident in those submarines: the new propulsion

systems, particularly the air-independent propulsion systems that allow conventional submarines to stay under water longer without having to come up and recharge batteries.”

Roughead said he was more focused on the technology itself than on which nations were acquiring such subs. It is critical that the Navy “not be denied the sea lanes and the access that our nation may require us to have,” he said.

Environmentalists’ recent lawsuits against the service for using active sonar in training on the grounds that the sound blasts harm whales threaten to hinder a “critical sensor” in detecting advanced submarines, he said.

“We must be able to be proficient in employing [active sonar], and that takes practice, and that takes skill, because anti-submarine warfare is an art,” he said. “It requires many, many different skills. It requires incredible analysis. It requires great patience as this – as the problem evolves. And our ability to train is absolutely ... critical.”

When asked whether another recent court injunction on low-frequency active sonar would inhibit the Navy’s ability to train in the same way as the injunction on mid-frequency active sonar, Roughead said both were very important.

“They do affect our training in both cases,” he said. “They’re different types of sonars. They operate at different ranges. They’re employed differently. But each one requires skill and practice, and our ability to conduct the type of training that we need with those sensors, whether it’s mid-frequency or low-frequency sonar, is very important.”

He added that he believes the service can both train effectively with the sonar but also “be good stewards of the environment.”

“They can coexist,” he said. “The position that some take that it’s one or the other is just not accurate.”

Answering a question on the importance of supplemental appropriations funding, Roughead said the money was necessary but the Navy’s needs are not as great as those in the Army. Army officials have been publicly stating that when the supplemental money ends, their service will face a very difficult budget picture.

“The numbers that we have are not of the magnitude of the Army,” he said. “But it is important to us, and we’ve been using that supplemental funding over the past couple of years.”

He said the funding was needed for an increase in operations the Navy has been conducting.

When asked about an incident the previous weekend involving a Russian bomber flying over the aircraft carrier Nimitz south of Japan, as well as recent problems with China, Roughead said the events merely show “that we are a global Navy and that we are out and about.”

## ***Booster Club***

***Total for calendar year 2007: \$559***  
**Mike Hyman 619-980-0846**

**NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS  
FOR CALENDAR YEAR, 2008!**

**Send all Donations to:  
USSVI San Diego Base  
c/o VFW Post 3787  
4370 Twain Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92120-3404  
Attn: Booster Club**

*Make checks out to USSVI and write Booster Club  
in the memo!*

“We are out and about routinely, developing relationships with countries around the world, and our activity is not sporadic,” he said.

The 313-ship fleet is the key to developing those relationships around the world, according to Roughead.

“I do believe that being out there does require a Navy that has the capacity and the capability and, equally important, the balance across a range of mission areas that allow us to operate as a global Navy,” he said.

Getting to that balance will depend largely on the Littoral Combat Ship, the admiral said, a program that has been plagued by cost run-ups and delays.

“As you know, this year, we had to decrement the number of ships, because of issues that we’ve had with the LCS program,” he said. “That was a very difficult decision, but I believe it was a very responsible decision, and one that was important for the health of that program over the long term.”

Roughead said he has visited both LCS ships now being built, and their initial operations will give the Navy a better sense of its future acquisition strategy.

“You can look at the shipbuilding plan and you can see that LCS is the major driver of the number, and it’s not just to drive the number higher,” he said.

## **Drug Smuggling Under The Sea With A Submarine**

*By Ted Scouten, CBS4.com, February 19, 2008*

KEY WEST – It seems drug smugglers are always coming up with new and innovative ways to get their drugs onto U.S. streets. Well here’s the latest, it’s a drug smuggling submarine, it’s a one of a kind - it’s the only one that’s ever been captured and made it to shore.

It looks like a boat skimming the waves but look closer – it’s actually one of the latest innovations in drug smuggling.

“We had a nick name, we called it “big foot” because there were a lot of intelligence that they may have been there, but we never saw one,” Joe Nimmich of the U.S Coast Guard told CBS4’s Ted Scouten.

“Big foot,” is drug smuggling sub that moves about the ocean stealth – mostly underwater – keeping it off radar and sonar screens. It was filled with more than 4 tons of cocaine.

The drugs are actually loaded in the front of the submarine – new subs in the cartel’s fleet can hold up to 15 tons of cocaine.

There’s a six cylinder engine in the submarine that can move it up to 2,000 miles.

The crew cabin can’t really even stand up, it’s kind of low. The beds are really close to each other, making it a tight space to live on.

“Every time we turn around, the smuggler are extraordinarily creative, extraordinary adaptive” said Nimmich.

We’ve certainly seen that over the years.

“The post that holds the wheel was used to conceal the cocaine,” explained Zach Mann of Customs and Border Protection. “One of the more unique concealment methods we had in recent time are fake plantains.”

John Schmidt’s a former drug smuggler who works with the courts to get people into treatment. He figured it was just a matter of time before smugglers took their trade “under the sea.”

Submarines are the present thing in vogue,” said Schmidt. “I would tell my colleagues that we needed to buy a sub because all of our work was land oriented. It made sense to me that subs were the way to go because you don’t see them.”

The drug subs are getting more sophisticated constantly. Every time drug agents expose one new smuggling method – another one is already in the works.

“The only thing that limits a drug smuggler is his money and or his imagination,” explained Schmidt. “With those two he can go, the sky’s the limit.”

What makes this such a huge find for all the agencies involved, they actually have their hands on the “big foot,” what they can do is go thru it with a fine tooth comb they can learn from it, Hopefully, they’ll learn new ways of detecting other subs in the future.