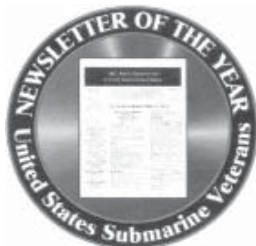


American Submariners Inc.
Silent Sentinel
c/o VFW Post 3787
4370 Twain Ave.
San Diego, CA 92120-3404



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The Silent Sentinel

May 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

Continued from Page 3

it was Great seeing you and your bride at the dinner. I know there are a few more of our shipmates who need out thoughts and prayers for their speedy recovery.

As you all know this past month has been pretty busy with the Old Timers lunch and Tolling of the Boats, Sub Ball, 2009 Convention meeting held 18-20 April, and the parade in Riverside. Plus our district is opening a new Base in Redland, CA (USS BONEFISH BASE). And we have much more going on in the near future.

Just around the corner is the 2009 USSVI National Convention we are hosting with USS SCAMP Base and ISA. We have the Opportunity to make a few bucks for the base and the convention with the Opportunity Drawing fund raiser. If we all pitched in and sell 10 tickets each, everyone will benefit from it. We will earn some funds for the base and for the convention. And we need the funds to Host a Great Convention. Lets all pitch in and do our part to support the Convention and the Base.

Remember, June will be another USSVI San Diego Base Breakfast. Come one come all and enjoy a Great Breakfast. Or lend a hand working in the kitchen or on the floor serving or making coffee.

One last thought, I hope everyone stays in good health and spirits. Hope to see you all at the next meeting 13 May.

Your Base Commander,
Bob Bissonette

U.S. Submarine Veterans San Diego Base

Base Commander

Bob Bissonnette
1525 Walbollen Street
Spring Valley, CA 91977
(H) 619-644-8993
(CELL) 619-251-7095

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Bill Earl

Junior Vice Commander

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Chief of the Boat/Chaplain

CJ Glassford
(858) 483-7355

Treasurer

David Ball
davidball@cox.net
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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.

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.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

Would like the SILENT SENTINEL emailed: YES _____ NO _____

Robert Bissonnette
1525 Walbollen St.
Spring Valley, CA 91977-3748

USSVI Base Commander
c/o VFW Post 3787
4370 Twain Ave.
San Diego, CA 92120-3404

Commander's Corner May 2008

Hello to everyone this month. First of all I would like to thanks and to Congratulate the new and continuing Base Officers. I know most of us had a good time at the Induction Dinner/Meeting. We had a few issues at the dinner that I wasn't to happy about and by the time this comes out in print, I will have had a meeting with the Manager of Sizzler about the service we had. I server we had was good but under manned. And we did get short changed on what we were promised. I'm sorry for the inconvenience we shared at the dinner. I do want to thank Fred Fomby for getting it organized.

For all that came to CDR Joe McGrievy's Memorial Service at the Sub Base I want to thank you. Joe's daughter Sandy and son Michael wanted to thank everyone who came and for all the support they receiver during their trying times. Shipmate you will be missed by all who knew you and you will never be forgotten. Joe you were the true Submariner. Thank you for the time I shared with you.

CJ will be out of the Assistant Living Hospital by the time this news letter is out too. This is Great news. He still has a long road of recovery but he is a tuff old bird. He still has a few tricks up his sleeve. He wanted me to pass on his thanks and gratitude for all the card, letters, and visits from all his shipmates. Let us not forget about another shipmate who had heart surgery not too long ago, Al Strunk. Shipmate

Continued on Front Cover

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 JUNE 2008 SILENT SENTINEL MUST BE IN MY HAND BY THE 23RD OF MAY! IT HAS TO BE RECEIVED BY ME BY THIS DATE. I CANNOT ACCEPT SUBMITTALS FOR THE JUNE ISSUE ANY LATER, SO GET THEM IN EARLY. MIKE

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

May 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 May 13th. 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 JUNE 2008 EDITION SILENT SENTINEL COLLATE PARTY WILL BE HELD ON MAY 31st, 0900, AT THE TWAIN AVENUE VFW.

BINNACLE LIST

Mike Hyman

C J Glassford (now recuperating at home)

Chuck George

Larry Freske

Al Strunk (now recuperating at home)

Submitted by Mike Hyman



“ APRIL “

PICKEREL [Bell] (SS 177) - 74 Men on Board:

Sunk, on 3 April 1943, by Japanese Minelayer and Auxiliary Sub Chaser, Off Northern Honshu, Japan :

“ ALL HANDS LOST “

SNOOK [Bell] (SS 279) - 84 Men on Board:

Probably Sunk, on 9 April 1945, by a combination of Japanese Naval Aircraft, Escort Vessel, Coast Defense Vessels, and/or Japanese Submarine, In the Nansei Soto Area:

“ ALL HANDS LOST “

THRESHER [Bell] (SSN 593) - 129 Men on Board:

Sunk, on 10 April 1963, after a possible Pipeing Failure during Deep Submergence Tests off of the New England Coast

“ ALL HANDS LOST “

GUDGEON [Bell] (SS 211) - 78 Men on Board:

Probably Sunk, on 18 April 1944, by Japanese Naval Aircraft, Southwest of Iwo Jima :

“ ALL HANDS LOST “

S – 49 [Bell] (SS 160) - Duty Section on Board;

Battery Explosion. on 20 April 1926, at Submarine Base. New London, Connecticut :

“ 4 MEN LOST “

BONEFISH [Bell] (SS 582) - 77 Men on Board:

Battery Fire and Explosion. on 24 April 1988, While perating off the Florida Coast :

“ 3 MEN LOST “

GRENADIER [Bell] (SS 210) - 80 Men on Board:

Scuttled, on 22 April 1943, after Japanese Seaplane Attacks Damaged the Boat the previous day, Off Penang, Malaysia:

“ 4 MEN LOST “

76 MEN SURVIVED POW CAMP “



Submitted by C J Glassford

UPCOMING EVENTS

Submitted by CJ Glassford

“MONTHLY MEETINGS – SD BASE”

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 “ RIVERSIDE PARADE “

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”

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”

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”

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 4TH OF JULY PARADE “

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

Checking Account Balance @ 12/29/2007 \$ **1,398.97**

INCOME for JANUARY 2008

Christmas Party	60.00
Booster Club	70.00
50/50	49.00
Calendar Sales	10.00
Ship's Store (Patches)	10.00

Membership 410.00

Scholarship Income for January 10.00

Total Income for January (per Bank Stmt) \$ **619.00**

EXPENSES for JANUARY 2008

January Silent Sentinel Printing	131.46
January Silent Sentinel Mailing	48.71
USSVI December 2007 Final Membership	120.00
Christmas Party & 2008 Calendars	70.00

Total Expenses for January (per Bank Stmt) \$ **370.17**

Checking Account Balance @ 01/30/2008 \$ **1,647.80**

ASSETS

Base Checking (1/30/08)	\$ 1,647.80
Base Savings (1/30/08)	9,318.36
Scholarship Fund Included in Base Savings	10.00
Convention Account (1/31/08)	3,977.74

TOTAL ASSETS \$ **14,943.90**

Checking Account Balance @ 1/30/2008	\$ 1,647.80
---------------------------------------------	--------------------

INCOME for FEBRUARY 2008

Booster Club	0.00
50/50	0.00
Calendar Sales	0.00
Ship's Store	0.00

Membership	400.00
-------------------	--------

Scholarship Income for February	0.00
----------------------------------------	------

Total Income for February (per Bank Stmt)	\$ 400.00
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EXPENSES for FEBRUARY 2008

Silent Sentinel Printing	0.00
Silent Sentinel Mailing	0.00
USSVI December 2007 Error Correction	90.00
USSVI 2008 Membership	60.00

Total Expenses for February (per Bank Stmt)	\$ 150.00
----------------------------------------------------	------------------

Checking Account Balance @ 02/28/2008	\$ 1,897.80
----------------------------------------------	--------------------

ASSETS

Base Checking (2/28/08)	\$ 1,897.80
Base Savings (2/28/08)	9,318.36
Scholarship Fund Included in Base Savings 10.00	
Convention Account (2/29/08)	3,977.74

TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 15,193.90
---------------------	---------------------

NOTES to REPORT

Treasurer was on vacation during much of February and missed meeting so no deposits were made nor checks written. These will show up in March Report.

Checking Account Balance @ 2/28/2008 **\$ 1,897.80**

INCOME for MARCH 2008

Booster Club	130.00
50/50 (2/12/08 & 3/11/08 Meetings)	130.00
Calendar Sales	22.00
Ship's Store	135.00

Membership 0.00

Scholarship Income for March 10.00

Total Income for March (per Bank Stmt) **\$ 427.00**

EXPENSES for MARCH 2008

Silent Sentinel Printing	292.97
Silent Sentinel Mailing	96.23
Mailing Labels for Membership Dept.	58.16
Bulk Mailing Permit Renewal	175.00
Donation to Bullhead Base	50.00
USSVI 2008 Membership	170.00

Total Expenses for March (per Bank Stmt) **\$ 842.36**

Checking Account Balance @ 03/28/2008 **\$ 1,482.44**

ASSETS

Base Checking (3/28/08)	\$ 1,482.44
Scholarship Fund Included in Base Checking	25.00
Base Savings (3/28/08)	9,318.36
Convention Account (3/31/08)	3,977.74

TOTAL ASSETS **\$ 14,778.54**

NOTES to REPORT

Treasurer was on vacation during much of February and missed meeting so no deposits were made nor checks written. These are now showing up in this March Report.

San Diego Submarine Veterans Meeting for March 11, 2008

1858 Meeting called to order by Base Commander Bob Bissonnette.

Conducted opening exercises: Reading of the Creed – Pledge of Allegiance – Opening Prayer.

Tolling of the Boats

USS PERCH SS 176

USS GRAMPUS SS 207

USS H-1 SS 28

USS TRITON SS 201

USS KETE SS 367

USS F-4 SS 23

USS TULLIBEE SS 284

USS TRIGGER SS 237

All hands observed a moment of silence.

E-board members present. Junior vice Commander introduced new members and guests. Guests present: Tudor Davis, Clarence Scott.

One new member: Jack Addington.

Secretary reported 37 members and two guests.

Treasurer submits his report.

Charlie Marin introduced new officers which were voted on last meeting. A brief swearing in ceremony was held. New officers are: Senior vice – Bill Earl, Junior vice – Jim Bilka, Secretary – Manny Burciaga, Treasurer – David Ball.

Base Cmdr stated minutes of the last meeting has been published in the Sentinel and are their any corrections.

Member from the floor noted that the date for the next meeting was incorrect. Error was noted and will be changed in the minutes.

Base Commander presented the Binnacle list since Post Chaplin is in the hospital.

Reports from Mike and additional members from the floor gave positive reports on CJ's condition. CJ seems to be doing better and visitors are welcomed.

Mike Carter, Jim Kramer and Bud Rush have serious problems with cancer and kidney disease.

Base Commander reported on the death of Cdr. Joe McGrievy, USN, Ret. We

also lost an additional shipmate, Gunner Nelson.

Parade committee:

CJ has been the parade Chairperson and since he is in the hospital we will get info from him and let the membership know when the next Parades are being held.

Membership Committee:

Ron Gorence state we presently have 392 members on the books, but we need to maintain our membership. We need new members.

Dolphin Scholarship Fund Committee:

Charlie Marin reports that we have only one applicant this year for the Scholarship fund. He encourages everyone who has children, grandchildren entering college they are still eligible to apply.

David Ball (Treasurer) Commented that the Scholarship find only has 10 dollar in the fund; however it was pointed out that funds would be made available if needed.

Convention Committee:

Mike Hacking Convention chairperson reported that last months meeting had been canceled. The next meeting committee members we will tour the Town and Country Convention Center. We are working on a budget for the convention and looking at the numbers, which are very high. This being the case we must look to fund rising as a way to keep the cost of the convention down. One method we have is selling raffle tickets. We have an opportunity to sell tickets for a nation wide raffle for Submarine Bases and our group will get 50 percent of ticket sales. There is a lot of talk of WWII Sub Vets and International Submarines and Canadian group will attend. We have sent invitations to WWII vets to come and make this the huge convention for all submarine veterans. We would like to put out the word to WWII vets that they are welcomed.

It was recommended by member that the commemorative patch be changed from National Convention to International Convention.

Breakfast committee:

Fred Fomby announced the breakfast will be March 30, 2008. We need volunteers to help serve and clean up for the breakfast. If you can't volunteer come and bring your friends and family to this great breakfast.

1930 Break.....

1945 Base Commander called meeting to order. 50/50 drawing was conducted.....

Old business

Dave Ball was asked about bicycle repair and donations to the San Diego Children's Center. He informed us that no donations or repairs were done this month.

Base Commander discussed the tentative dinner meeting for installing new officers at some restaurant location. It was pointed out that his month would not be good and next month would be better. At the present we are planning to have a dinner for about 15 dollars a person.

More information will be forthcoming.

The budget has been completed and will be approved by the ways and means committee and then presented to the membership for a vote.

New business

Submarine Veterans WW|II sponsored a caucus in Albuquerque New Mexico which was cancelled due to very low registration. The sponsoring base has to pay a cancellation fee. The Western district Commander has requested that bases to help out if they can. They requested we donate 50 dollars to help defray the costs. A motion made to donate 50 dollars to the base, the motion was second. Motion was opened for discussion, No discussion was presented. |Motion passed to send 50 dollars to the Albuquerque base to help defray cost of caucus.

Base commander proposed establishing longevity pins, he recommend we restart this program, the cost of the pins are \$2.50 each. They will be in 5 year increments.

A motion was made, and the motion second for restarting the longevity program. No discussion was made. Motion was passed. Renaming the Scholarship fund.

It was pointed out the Joe McGrievy was one of the founding members it is only appropriate that the fund be name after Joe.

A motion was made to change the name of the Scholarship fund, the motion was second. It was open for discussion – a member said that the Scamp base is already has a fund named for Joe, which was recently started. Fred wanted our fund to remain a local fund since Scamp base has set the fund under national. A member

pointed out that funds should stay here and not sent to National. David Ball suggested we not take funds out of the general fund but give separately to maintain and support this fund. Possible donation could be taken from the 50/50 drawing. The drawing proceeds could be changed to 30/30/30 with some going to fund. Ron wanted to change name of fund to the Commander Joe McGrievy Scholarship fund vice the Joe McGrievy Fund, Motion was presented and passed.

Mike Hacking Mike wanted to encourage the selling of tickets and he would like to propose a motion that the base participate in the fund rising effort. For each ticket sold 5 dollars would go to The American Submariner the rest (5 dollars) would go to the base. Some member wanted 500 tickets but the Base Commander suggested only 100 tickets. This was because we had so many left over from the last year’s opportunity drawing. A motion made and second, the motion to participate in the tickets sales passed.

New business

David Ball recommended we redirection the funds from 50/50 raffle starting next meeting making it 3rd to winner 3rd to base 3rd to scholarship fund.

Invitations were made available for Joe McGrievy memorial service. A message from Captain Patton concerning the memorial service is also available. The service will be on the Submarine Base tomorrow. An invitation for after service get together is also included.

Good of the order

Fred Fomby has a CD with Joe’s war time experiences during World War II. He describes his life adventures during his military service. Fred will make copies of the CD to anyone who is interested.

A member asked if there will be a professional photographer at the memorial service, and if pictures will be available. Base Commander did not know but believes that Navy photographers will be there taking pictures.

A member questioned why we didn’t have The USS STICKLEBACK which was lost in 50’s on our list of boats. The Stickleback was being towed back to Pearl and was lost, however there was no loss of life. Base Commander did not know, but would investigate and send any new information to National since this information comes out of National headquarters.

Base Commander recommends we flood CJs hospital room with cards to cheer him up. It would be great to have as many cards a possible from our members.

A new member wanted to know why we can’t get stuff for members. Do we have vest and other stuff to buy and what we can get? Base Commander explained we do have items available but our storekeeper has been ill. Meet with me after the meeting and we can see what is available.

Chuck George wanted to know were he could get some dolphin earrings (member hooting and whistling) Chuck quickly explained it was for his wife (more hooting and whistling) He did admit that during the war he did wear one earring and it was really a hit with the women (even more hooting and whistling)....

2020 - Meeting was adjourned by Base Commander

SAILING LIST:

FRED FOMBY	PHILL RICHERSON	MANNY BURCIAGA
CHARLIE MARIN	CLIFF BRITT	CHUCK BABCOCK
DAVID BALL	MART WELTZIEN	JIM DOONAN
FRANK WALKER	RAY FERBRACHE	ED BLOCK
CHUCK GEORGE	DENNIS MORTENSEN	DENNIS MCCREIGHT
TUDOR DAVIS	MIKE HACKING	JAMES MALDON
CLARENCE SCOTT	JACK KANE	BILL EARL
RONGORENCE	PAUL HITCHCOCK	PETE BERG
BOB BISSONNETTE	R J FULLEN	JACK ADDINGTON
MATT BAUMANN	ROY BANNACH	DON MATHOWETZ
BOB FARRELL	ED FARLEY	DAVID KAUPPINEN
TOM WARNER	EVERETT MAUGER	DAVID NIELSEN
JIM BILKA	BUD ROSS	PETE LUSTRIA

Submarine Veterans Meeting April 8, 20008

1800 – 1900 Dinner meeting for installation of Elected Officers.

1915 – Meeting called to order by Base Commander Bob Bissonnette.

Conducted opening exercises: Pledge of Allegiance

Tolling of the Boats:

USS PICKEREL SS177

USS SNOOK SS279

USS THRASHER SSN593

USS GUDGEON SS211

USS GRENADIER SS210

All hands observe a moment of silent prayer for our fallen comrades'.

E-Board members are present.

Secretary reported 39 members and guests are present.

Treasures report: Report will be published in The Sentinel.

New officers were called and requested to stand and be recognized.

New Senior Vice Commander – Bill Earl

Junior Vice Commander – Jim Bilka

Secretary – Manny Burciaga

Treasurer – David Ball

Base Commander expressed appreciation to passed officers and others who have contributed to the organization. Certificates of Appreciation were given to:

Fred Fromby, Jim Bilka, David Ball, Manny Burciaga, Ron Gorence,

Mike Hacking, Mike Hyman, Everette Mauger.

Recognition of new Holland Club Member Bill Rolston.

The Binnacle List:

C J Glassford – CJ want to thank everyone for all the cards and well wishes.

Al Strunk – Is recovering from heart surgery.

Parade Updates: Next parade is in Riverside on April 19 starting time is 0800, we do not have all the info at this time but when we get it we will pass on the information.

Membership – We have 335 members with a few more who have not sent in their dues.

Scholarship committee – We have two applications at this moment. We are still looking for donations to the fund.

Convention committee – Mike Hacking, we are looking to rap up some budget items and the tour of the convention center has been postponed Friday, April 18 at

1300. This is during the Old Timers Luncheon.

Breakfast committee- We had an excellent breakfast and had a profit of 206.00 and that was after expenses. All food cost were up at least 10 percent. We had 111 breakfasts that were sold. Thanks to everyone who was out to help, our next breakfast will be June 29th.

Break and conducted raffle.... We have changed our raffle to 1/3 going to the individual, 1/3 to the organization and 1/3 to the Scholarship fund.

Good of the order – No new information except:

The Old Timers Luncheon will be at 1000 on Friday April 18 with Tolling of the Boats at 1030.

Submarine Ball will be held on the April 19 at 1700 (5pm) at the Sheridan on Harbor Drive. Admiral Kiminsky will be the guest speaker and tickets are 55.00 dollars.

1740 Meet was adjourned by Base Commander.

Sailing List

FRED FOMBY	BILL EARL	MANNY BURCIAGA
ALLEN SIMMONS	BOB OBERTING	JAMES MALDON
RONGORENCE	ED FARLEY	DENNIS MORTENSEN
MARY GORENCE	TOM WARNER	MIKE HACKING
MARTIN GORENCE	JACK KANE	EVERETT MAUGER
CHRIS SULTANA	JUDY KANE	AL STRUNK
BEN ROLLISON	DON MATHIOWETZ	RUTH STRUNK
BOB BISSONNETTE	MIKE HYMAN	CONNIE BISSONNETTE
DAVID BALL	MATT BAUMANN	CHARLIE MARIN
MERT WELTZIEN	NORMA WELTZIEN	JOE ACAY
AL POBLETE	JIM BILKA	

Good Day To Remember Those US Submariners
(NEW ZEALAND HERALD 25 APR 08) ... David Clemow

On Anzac Day thoughts turn to those who gave their lives during various wars over the last century. But there is one group which has never been given recognition for what they achieved in World War II and that is the United States submariners, 3505 of whom lost their lives, including 374 officers.

When one analyses what they achieved there is no doubt they did more than any other group to defeat the Japanese and save Australia and New Zealand from being invaded.

The reason is simple - they sank more than 60 per cent of the Japanese merchant marine fleet. Without these ships, not only was the Japanese advance stifled, their occupying troops lost their supply lines and they virtually could not be evacuated like the British were at Dunkirk to fight in other battles.

Additionally with the loss of shipping, Japan found it very difficult to supply the home land with raw materials from the conquered territories.

After the Japanese invasion of Manchuria, the US instigated a policy of restricting supplies to Japan. This ultimately led to the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbour on December 7, 1941.

The Japanese advance over the next five months was nothing short of staggering - Hong Kong, the Philippines, Burma, Borneo, Malaya, Thailand, Indo-China (Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam) and Singapore on February 15, 1942 where 80,000 troops surrendered (the largest surrender of British military personnel in history) were occupied. Ships played a most important part in this role.

The Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) was occupied in March and Darwin first bombed on February 15, 1942. The farthest Japanese advance was Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands by July 6. The farthest advance in Burma was on May 8, 1942, which was the second day of the Coral Sea battle - their first setback, followed by the Battle of Midway on June 3-6.

Without a huge marine fleet this advance would never have been possible. Over the next two years the US Navy submarine fleet went to work.

Fortunately they had cracked the Japanese naval code so they virtually knew their every move. The Japanese had also failed to destroy the enormous naval fuel-oil installations at Pearl Harbour when Admiral Nagumo did not go ahead with the third wave of air strikes.

Admiral Nimitz, Commander in Chief of the US Navy Pacific Fleet, said that had the tanks been destroyed the war would have been prolonged by two years as it would have immobilised every ship in the Pacific Fleet.

The Japanese had no long-range anti-submarine aircraft and probably their destroyers were not that well equipped to deal with submarines. The problem for the American Navy was where to base the submarines. Darwin was ruled out because the harbour was considered too shallow. Finally Fremantle (near Perth) was chosen and obviously that was too far away for the Japanese to attack with aircraft. It was a long haul for the submarines to the areas where Japanese ships were active to the north but on the surface, diesel-powered submarines have a tremendous range.

Obviously they would sail on the surface for most of their operations to and from Fremantle. Evidently Japan never found out where the submarines were based. The Fremantle base had 125 American, 31 British and 11 Free Dutch submarines. The Americans deployed 288 submarines during the war so nearly half operated from the Fremantle base.

Japan started the war with six million tonnes of shipping and of course built more as the war went on. US submarines sank 1314 of their ships of more than 1000 tons each, plus 700,000 tons of naval ships including eight aircraft carriers, a battleship and 11 cruisers.

They did 416 patrols and fired 14,500 torpedoes. Out of a total of 52 subs lost, 48 were lost operating from the Fremantle base. American submariners made up only 1.6 per cent of the US naval manpower but they had the highest loss rate of US Armed Forces with 22 per cent killed.

At the German Naval Museum at Laboe, northeast of Kiel, there is a memorial to the 3505 American submariners and a memorial to the 31,000 German submariners who lost their lives out of a total of 39,000 men who served in their U-boats. The Germans built 1154 U-boats and lost 800.

More than 50,000 allied Merchant Seamen lost their lives, many as a result of U-boat activity. They, too, have never been given true recognition for what they achieved in the Atlantic and the sacrifices they made.

Last year while in Los Angeles I spoke to a group of American submariners. Many did not know of their predecessors' achievements in the war and none knew there was a base in Fremantle.

They are going to make a concerted effort to bring this oversight into prominence when remembrances are held. Their sacrifices certainly saved us from invasion. Anzac Day is now also the time to remember those 3505 dead submariners of the US Navy.

(David Clemow of Auckland is a retired Air New Zealand pilot, previous technical director of the Airline Pilots Association and a qualified meteorologist.)

LCDR Joe Femino

Commanding Officer

USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13)

MCM CREW EXULTANT



Navy Reestablishes U.S. Fourth Fleet

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Alan Gragg, Navy News, April 24, 2008

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead announced today the reestablishment of U.S. 4th Fleet and assigned Rear Adm. Joseph D. Kernan, currently serving as Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command, as its first commander.

U.S. 4th Fleet will be responsible for U.S. Navy ships, aircraft and submarines operating in the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) area of focus, which encompasses the Caribbean, and Central and South America and the surrounding waters.

Located in Mayport, Fla., and dual-hatted with Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (COMUSNAVSO), U.S. 4th Fleet reestablishment addresses the increased role of maritime forces in the SOUTHCOM area of focus, and demonstrates U.S. commitment to regional partners.

“Reconstituting the Fourth Fleet recognizes the immense importance of maritime security in the southern part of the Western Hemisphere, and sends a strong signal to all the civil and military maritime services in Central and Latin America,” said Roughead. “Aligning the Fourth Fleet along with our other numbered fleets and providing the capabilities and personnel are a logical execution of our new Maritime Strategy.”

U.S. 4th Fleet was original established in 1943 as one of the original numbered fleets, and was given a specific mission. During World War II, the U.S. needed a command in charge of protecting against raiders, blockade runners and enemy submarines in the South Atlantic. U.S. 4th Fleet was disestablished in 1950 when U.S. 2nd Fleet took over its responsibilities.

Initially, the new 4th Fleet will be headquartered with COMUSNAVSO and take advantage of the existing infrastructure, communications support and personnel already in place in Mayport. As a result, U.S. 4th Fleet will not involve an increase in forces assigned in Mayport.

“This is a significant change and presents us the opportunity to garner the right resources for the missions we run for Southern Command,” said Rear Adm. James W. Stevenson Jr., Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (NAVSO). “As a numbered fleet, we will be in a better position to ensure the Combatant Commander has the right assets available when needed.”

U.S. 4th Fleet will retain responsibility as COMUSNAVSO, the Navy component command for SOUTHCOM. Its mission is to direct U.S. naval forces operating in the Caribbean, Central and South American regions and interact with partner nation navies within the maritime environment. Various operations include counter-illicit trafficking, Theater Security Cooperation, military-to-military interaction and bilateral and multinational training.

In New Fleet, U.S. May Field Nuclear And Conventional Ballistic Missiles On Separate Submarines

New Submarine Could Have Nuclear, Conventional Variants

By Elaine M. Grossman, Global Security Newswire, April 24, 2008

The U.S. Navy might field two versions of its next-generation strategic submarine that would carry ballistic missiles with different payloads, according to the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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“It could be that ... one has nuclear weapons and one has conventional,” Marine Corps Gen. James Cartwright told Global Security Newswire in an April 14 interview.

The new naval platform could host future conventional ballistic missiles, in addition to nuclear weapons, once the first such “prompt global strike” capability has been built on land, the general said. The new mission area calls for conventional weapons capable of hitting targets anywhere around the world on short notice.

Lawmakers have raised concerns about the risk of dangerous international misperceptions if a conventional ballistic missile were launched from a submarine that carries identical weapons with nuclear warheads.

In response to such worries, the Navy might design two variants of the future ballistic missile submarine or adopt “some other mitigation that people would be more comfortable with,” Cartwright said.

The service has drafted an official document outlining the military capabilities it seeks in a new nuclear weapons submarine that could be introduced into the fleet in 2028, according to defense sources. The Defense Department’s Joint Requirements Oversight Council is expected to review the Navy document for approval this year.

The vessel would ultimately replace the service’s 18 Ohio-class submarines. Fourteen of these, the so-called “SSBNs,” are capable of launching Trident D-5 nuclear-armed missiles. The other four submarines, dubbed “SSGNs,” carry conventional cruise missiles and special operations forces.

Navy officials have not yet said publicly whether they would replace the SSGN vessels with similar conventional-only submarines.

Each of the submarine replacements would cost roughly \$7 billion, measured in 2009 dollars, senior analyst Eric Labs of the Congressional Budget Office said in House testimony last month.

The service has not offered its own cost estimate for the program, saying a price tag is nearly impossible to pin down before additional design details have been determined. However, this is a departure from past practice in which the Navy has offered early estimates for other future ships, naval affairs specialist Ronald O’Rourke of the Congressional Research Service testified alongside Labs.

Given the competition for resources in the defense budget and an already costly long-term shipbuilding budget, it could be that the Navy “just didn’t want to scare the bejesus out of us” with a huge price tag, one congressional staffer said this week.

By 2030, the Navy plans to sail just 12 strategic submarines, down two from its current fleet, Labs noted in his testimony. The chief of naval operations explained last year that fewer nuclear-capable submarines would be required because future vessels would be powered by life-of-the-ship reactors. That relieves “the need for additional force structure to accommodate long refueling overhauls,” Navy spokeswoman Lt. Karen Eifert said today in response to e-mailed questions.

As it stands, two of the current 14 SSBNs are out for nuclear refueling at any given time.

Under the service’s emerging plans, the last of today’s nuclear-weapons submarines would retire in 2040 and give way to a fully modernized force. The new underwater boat would be introduced into the fleet over a 12-year period, according to defense officials.

Once the joint council approves the Navy’s “interim capabilities document,” which lays out the features it expects the SSBN replacement to offer, the service would embark on an 18-month “analysis of alternatives,” defense officials said. The review — to be concluded in fiscal 2010 — would assess the costs and benefits of various design approaches.

A Nuclear Posture Review performed by the Defense Department in 2002 stated that a Trident submarine replacement would likely be needed around 2029, assuming the nation still requires a sea-based strategic nuclear force.

The review laid out two possible design options: a dedicated nuclear-armed submarine, like today’s Ohio-class vessels; or a variant of the Virginia-class attack submarine, which could be modified to take on the SSBN mission. A replacement for the Ohio-class submarine might be a new design or derived from current Trident specifications, the posture review stated.

The Navy intends to take more than eight years to design the next-generation sub, culminating in a detailed blueprint by the end of fiscal 2018, defense officials told GSN. Construction of the first vessel would commence in 2019 and continue for seven years, with another three years allotted for fielding the initial two submarines. Initial operating capability could be achieved by the end of 2028, according to service plans.

Concern about maintaining jobs in the shipbuilding industry appears to be driving much of the effort to get the future-SSBN design work started, according to defense experts and officials.

A RAND Corp. study last year urged the Navy to hasten its preliminary work on the submarine and stretch out the design period to prevent the loss of skilled submarine designers and engineers.

Amid calls by the Submarine Industrial Base Council — a consortium of contractors — to begin research and development, the Bush administration included funds in its fiscal 2009 budget request for the analysis of design alternatives. Eifert said the Navy has budgeted \$10 million next year for an “Underwater Launched Missile Study.”

To date, there has been little debate about whether a new submarine should be developed and built, according to experts. “I have seen no indications that anyone would oppose this next-generation SSBN,” one congressional staffer said this week. Instead, the source said, discussion has been focused on one question: “When are we going to get started?”

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Defense Focus: C21 Sub Threat — Part 1

By Martin Sieff, UPI, April 24, 2008

An important article in the current issue of National Defense magazine echoes the warnings we have been giving in these columns over the past three years about the growing tactical threat of China's diesel-electric submarines to U.S. surface warships in the Western Pacific Ocean.

The article by Grace V. Jean in the April 2008 issue of National Defense notes that diesel submarines are proliferating rapidly in navies around the world. They may, indeed, be the most popular type of warship being constructed. As we have noted in previous columns, Russia, China, Germany and France all now make excellent combat diesel submarines. Russia and France are particularly aggressive in exporting them to boost their arms sales revenues.

Israel's survivable second strike nuclear deterrent is carried on three German Dolphin class diesel submarines, or U-boats, with two more being constructed. India has followed Israel's example and has bought French Scorpion diesel-electric subs to carry its own survivable second strike deterrent that, like Israel's, is carried on submarine-launched cruise missiles.

The U.S. Navy, in the all-nuclear submarine fleet tradition of Adm. Hyman Rickover, decades ago pressured major U.S. shipbuilders, led by General Dynamics Electric Boat and Northrop Grumman, to scrap any capacity to build diesel submarines, putting all their faith in big, long-duration nuclear-powered subs.

As we have often noted in these columns, diesel subs can't begin to compare with nuclear ones for range, endurance or the ability to project power at any time anywhere around the world. But they don't have to. Not only are they effective in coastal waters, but developments in diesel-electric propulsion technology over the past 10 years allow them to project their operational range well into the ocean.

Of course, diesel-powered U.S. and German submarines in World War II could already do this and proved crucially important strategic weapons. Britain was at risk of being starved into submission by even the small, surface-attacking force of relatively primitive German U-boats in the Battle of the Atlantic from 1940 to 1943. And Japan was in fact isolated, starved and strategically defeated by the much larger and more efficient submarines of the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Theater.

The U.S. Navy still refuses to make any provision to reconstruct the capabilities to build diesel submarines in U.S. shipyards, and it has also refused to buy cheap, off-the-shelf subs from Germany and France.

Britain alone has continued to follow the U.S. lead by investing in smaller numbers of much more expensive and larger, long-range nuclear submarines. Back in the 1982 Falklands war, the British nuclear submarine HMS Conqueror sank the Argentine heavy cruiser General Belgrano, killing most of the around 1,000 crew on board. That action effectively neutralized the entire Argentine surface fleet, leaving the way clear for Britain's Task Force South to liberate the Falkland Islands — known to the Argentinians as the Malvinas.

But apart from the British, most other navies in the world have followed the Russian and Chinese fashion of investing big-time in modern diesel subs rather than hankering after nuclear ones.

Jean cited Richard Dorn of AMI International as estimating that currently there are about 377 diesel subs in service around the world operated by 39 nations. Jean also noted a trend we have tracked over the past two years in these columns of Russia's remarkable success in selling Kilo-class subs. China was already an enthusiastic customer. Now Venezuela and Indonesia have ordered them, too. Jean tallies 30 sales of Russian Kilos around the world so far with five more going to Venezuela by 2020, six to Indonesia, and China having bought in all 12 of them.

Jean also notes that China is already operating 10 Song-class diesel submarines. In November 2006 a Song-class submarine, as we have previously noted in these columns, surfaced within sight of the U.S. aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. Had that occurred during wartime, the Kitty Hawk would have been dead.

Northrop Grumman Profit Falls On Ship Charge

Washington Post, April 24, 2008

Northrop Grumman Corp (NOC.N) said on Thursday first-quarter profit fell sharply as it took a large charge for a delayed warship.

The U.S. No. 3 defense contractor, which makes ships, nuclear submarines, unmanned surveillance aircraft and a range of military electronics, cut its full-year earnings forecast to account for the charge but said it saw solid underlying trends in the defense business.

Northrop, which earlier this year won a massive U.S. Air Force refueling tanker contract, reported net profit of \$264 million, or 76 cents per share, compared with \$387 million, or \$1.10 per share, in the year-ago quarter.

That beat Wall Street's lowered forecast of 62 cents per share, according to Reuters Estimates. Analysts slashed their forecasts when Northrop warned about the ship charge earlier this month.

Sales rose 6 percent to \$7.7 billion, in line with analysts' estimates.

Profit was cut by a \$326 million charge to cover extra costs on the LHD-8 amphibious assault ship the company is building for the U.S. Navy, which is now six months behind schedule.

Northrop cut its full-year profit forecast to take account of the charge, but Chief Executive Ronald Sugar said "solid, underlying business trends" would help it hit longer-term financial targets.

The No. 3 Pentagon supplier, behind Lockheed Martin Corp (LMT.N) and Boeing Co (BA.N), said it now expects full-year earnings of \$4.90 to \$5.15 per share, down from its last forecast of \$5.50 to \$5.75. Analysts are expecting \$4.99, on average.

In February, Northrop and European partner EADS (EAD.PA) won a competition to build the first set of the Air Force's new refueling tankers, a contract that could ultimately be worth \$35 billion. However, losing bidder Boeing has protested the award, and Boeing's supporters in Congress have vowed to block funding for the program. Northrop also said on Thursday that it is increasing its quarterly dividend to 40 cents per share from 37 cents.

Satellite Images Reveal China's Underground Nuclear Submarine Base

By Rowan Callick, The Australian, April 24, 2008

China is building a large underground nuclear submarine base at its sub-tropical Hainan Island, says Jane's Information Group, specialists in military intelligence.

Jane's says it was first informed by Asian defence sources about the construction of the base five years ago, but has now been able to confirm this through high-resolution, newly commercially available satellite imagery.

The Chinese navy has rapidly acquired a blue-water capacity. It has 57 submarines, five of them nuclear-powered, with many of them equipped with Yingji-8 anti-ship cruise missiles that they can launch while still submerged.

It underlined this capacity 18 months ago when a 75m long Song S20 class vessel, built in the Wuhan shipyard, with unusually quiet German diesel engines, suddenly surfaced in the middle of an American battle fleet.

The submarine appeared within 8km of the US aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk, in international waters not far from Japan's southern island of Okinawa.

The new Yulin submarine base is located near Sanya, a fast developing resort centre on the south of Hainan. It was at Sanya where Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and China's President Hu Jintao met 12 days ago.

The island, half the size of Tasmania, is best known for tourism and tropical fruit, and has also hosted most of the recent Miss World contests.

It is about 200km from the Vietnam coast. Jane's says the extent of construction revealed by the DigitalGlobe imagery indicates Yulin could become a key base for aircraft carriers and other large surface craft, as well as for submarines.

The first type 094 second-generation nuclear ballistic missile submarine was shifted there last December.

Jane's says such a base has implications "for China's control of the South China Sea and the strategically vital straits in the area, and underlines Beijing's desire to assert tighter control over this region".

Typically, China has offered no public explanation of this development, which has strategic implications for the hotly disputed Spratly Islands - believed to be oil-rich - within the South China Sea where China and Vietnam have the most extensive claims, as well as for the busy shipping lanes between Europe, Southeast Asia and North Asia, and for Taiwan, 900km north-east of Hainan.

And Jane's adds: "China's increasing dependence on imported petroleum and mineral resources has contributed to an intensified concern about defending its access to vital sea lanes, particularly to its south."

Taiwan's National Security Council recently reported that the number of tactical ballistic missiles deployed by China against it had reached more than 1400 at the start of this year, augmented by more than 190 cruise missiles.

The council said China's navy, with more than 1000 vessels and 250,000 personnel, was acquiring the capacity to blockade Taiwan.

Taiwan is itself set to spend \$12.3billion on eight diesel-electric attack submarines that it would buy from the US, although selection of the prime contractor would probably take a further 15 months. A decision on that purchase is expected shortly after the May 20 inauguration of Taiwan's new president, Ma Ying-jeou.

Taiwan already has two Dutch-built Hai-lung (Sea Dragon) submarines, and two former US World War II-era submarines that are used only for training.

A report produced earlier this month by Asian Security Affairs specialist Shirley Kan for the US Congressional Research Service said: "The People's Liberation Army has continued to build up its forces that threaten Taiwan, raising the question of whether the military balance already has shifted to favour China."

If Mr Ma's Kuomintang party negotiates a withdrawal of the missiles targeting Taiwan, says the report, Taiwan's own "military deployments and missile programs could be subject to China's demands."

China Denies US Spying Allegations

Agence France Presse, April 23, 2008

China denied Tuesday that it was spying in the United States, a day after a Chinese-American man received a 10-year prison sentence for his role in passing sensitive data to the Asian giant, reports Khaleej Times.

"The so-called accusations of Chinese espionage are unacceptable, groundless and done out of ulterior motives," foreign ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu told journalists. Jiang was responding to the sentence handed down to Tai Mak after he was found guilty by a California court of conspiring with his brother to pass sensitive submarine technology data to China.

US federal judge Cormac Carney said the harsh sentence was meant to send a message to China's intelligence services. Tai Mak's brother, Chinese-American engineer Chi Mak, was found guilty of spying in May 2007 and sentenced last month to 24 years behind bars.

He was an engineer who worked for a US Navy contractor that develops the technology to silence submarines and was described as a Chinese "sleeper" agent during his trial.

Tropical Paradise For Bubbleheads

Strategy Page, April 23, 2008

India is building a new naval base, for all its submarines, on its east coast (near the port of Vishakapnam in Andhra Pradesh state, midway between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.) The Rambilli naval base will be home for Indias new nuclear subs, and will have the nuclear facilities necessary for maintaining these boats. The base will be completed in three years, and India's first nuclear sub is expected to be ready for service by then.

It was only four months ago that India officially acknowledged it was leasing at least one Russian Akula II SSN (nuclear attack submarine), which will enter Indian service next year. Persistent rumors had it that, three years ago, India arranged to lease two Akula IIs, for several million dollars a month per sub. It has apparently taken this long to train the crews. There were hundreds of Indian sailors and government officials involved in this operation, and, while tidbits of information kept leaking out, the government refused comment. The 7,000 ton Akula IIs are now completed, and have a crew of 51.

The Indian money enabled Russia to complete construction on at least two Akulas that were less than half finished at the end of the Cold War. This was another aftereffect of the collapse of the Soviet Union. Several major shipbuilding projects were basically put on hold (which still cost a lot of money), in the hopes that something would turn up. In this case, it was Indians with lots of cash.

India also expects to complete construction of its own nuclear sub design by next year, and begin sea trials and tests. This boat is based on Russian technology, but is basically Indian designed and built. The Russian Akula will basically serve as a training boat for India's new nuclear submarine force.

The new Indian SSN is called the ATV (Advanced Technology Vessel). There are to be five boats in the class, assuming that the first one works well. That first ATV SSN (nuclear attack sub) is not expected to enter service for at least another three or more years. The ATVs are being built at a shipyard near the new Rambilli naval base.

The ATV will be a 5,000 ton boat, and comparisons are being made to the new Chinese 093 (Shang) class, which is a 6,000 ton boat that just entered service last year, after more than a decade of construction. That was China's second class of SSNs. The first, the Han class, was a disaster. India is trying to learn from Chinas mistakes. That's one reason the ATV project has been kept so secret. Another reason for the secrecy was that so much of the ATV project involved developing a compact, light water reactor technology that would fit in a submarine. One of these Indian reactors is being installed in a 5,000 ton Charlie II class submarine that was purchased from Russia. This boat will be ready for sea trials this year. If that goes well, the reactor will be installed in the first ATV.

Once the ATV SSN is proven, a modified version will be built as a SSBN (ballistic missile carrying sub). This was how everyone else did it, including the Chinese. Get an SSN operational, then modify the design to include some SLBM launch tubes.

NATO Monitors Exercises Of Russia's Baltic Fleet

RIA Novosti, April 22, 2008

NATO reconnaissance ships are monitoring large-scale exercises conducted by Russia's Baltic Fleet, a spokesman for the Russian Navy said on Tuesday.

"The ships, located in the vicinity of the exercise area, include the Danish patrol vessel Selevan, Swedish intelligence gathering ship Orion, and Polish intelligence gathering ship Navigator," Captain 1st rank Igor Dygalo said.

About 30 Russian combat ships, eight supply vessels and naval fighters and helicopters are participating in the second phase of a large-scale exercise in the Baltic Sea, which started on April 14.

"During a joint exercise on Tuesday, anti-submarine warfare ships and aircraft will conduct a simulated search-and-destroy mission," Drygalo said.

The second phase will culminate with a simulated beach landing, involving units of naval infantry, amphibious assault ships Minsk and Korolyov, and air-cushioned landing craft Mordovia and Yevgeny Kocheshkov.

After the current exercises, the Baltic Fleet will start preparations for international naval exercises BALTOPS in June-July and OPEN SPIRIT in August-September, the spokesman said.

Russia's Pacific Fleet Begins Tactical Exercise Off Far East Shores

Itar Tass, April 23, 2008

VLADIVOSTOK — Ships of Russia's Pacific Fleet have begun a tactical exercise off the shores of the Primorsky /Maritime/ territory, the Fleet's press service said.

The grouping of the naval war games includes surface ships, submarines, auxiliary seacraft, patrol and sea-based aircraft.

The scenario of the exercise is not trivial this time, as the marine units of the potential enemy force are expected to get through to the coast and organize a landfall maneuver.

The enemy should do substantial preparations for this and the assault ships carrying the marines are escorted by fleet ballistic missile ships and an impressive contingent of anti-submarine ships.

The friendly submarines will have to get through the obstacles put up by the enemy aviation and ships and organize a torpedo attack, thus frustrating the landfall operation.

This is far from the sortie of the Pacific Fleet forces into the sea since the beginning of the year, The most recent exercise on the Sea of Japan ended at the beginning of April. In the course of it, ship crews did missile launches and artillery firing, including the one from the main anti-submarine weapons system, minelaying and drilling of all types of defense a sea voyage may involve.

At the culmination point, surface ships and submarines did a chasing maneuver, in which they pursued each other.

A submarine of the potential enemy – the role was performed by the Varshavyanka sub – clandestinely approached the friendly forces at a distance allowing of a torpedo attack at a surface ship, while the anti-submarine vessels with the aid of sea-based and patrol aviation hunted it out in the depths of the sea and incapacitated it by a precisely-targeted strike.

‘Bends’ goats to get foster homes

A search for foster homes for a herd of goats used in Navy decompression experiments has been launched.

BBC News, April 21, 2008

The 28 goats were used in trials for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) on the effect of pressure on submarine crews during emergency escapes.

The tests were designed to help crews judge whether to abandon a stricken vessel or wait for rescue.

The animals are being sent to the Buttercups Sanctuary for Goats in Maidstone, Kent, before being re-homed.

The MoD announced in February that it would end the testing following controversy about the use of goats in such experiments.

Buttercups Sanctuary founder Bob Hitch said the goats were aged from 18 months to eight years and included a mix of male and female Saanan, Toggenburg and Anglo-Nubian breeds.

Mr Hitch said: “With limited space and resources at the sanctuary we really need to identify new homes and conduct the necessary home visits as quickly as possible.”

Mr Hitch said Buttercups was unable to financially support the goats but would continue to oversee their welfare, so was looking for suitable homes in the Kent and East Sussex areas.

Deadly effects

Defence research group QinetiQ carried out the tests to assess the risk of Navy personnel getting “the bends”.

The “bends” - the effect of nitrogen bubbles in the bloodstream - is the sickness caused when divers rise to the surface too quickly.

Tim Sharman, team leader for maritime life support at QinetiQ, said they are giving Buttercups financial support to help re-home the healthy animals.

He said: “We simply no longer have a requirement to conduct animal trials and are now making every effort to find suitable and appropriate new homes for all of them.”

Sailors Submerged In Kentucky Charm

By John Zambenini, The State Journal, April 18, 2008

For North Dakota native Peter Arriza, Kentucky is more than just another state. It’s a 560-foot Ohio-class nuclear submarine where he serves as master chief machinist’s mate in the Navy.

But it’s also an important connection back on terra firma for Arriza and his fellow sailors aboard the USS Kentucky, which calls Bangor, Wash., its home port.

Arriza reenlisted in the Navy Wednesday in a special ceremony at the Capitol Rotunda with Lt. Gov. Daniel Mongiardo on hand for the ceremony.

“When they asked me if I wanted to reenlist here in Kentucky, I jumped at the chance,” Arriza said.

Phillip Setters, state program coordinator for Bluegrass Military Affairs Coalition, said the relationship is special to the sailors. Setters is the liaison between Kentucky and its namesake sub.

“It boosts morale and encourages an esprit de corps between the sailors and the people of Kentucky,” Setters said. “A lot of them will be rooting for Kentucky teams, and if they come to Kentucky once, they usually come back.”

The Kentucky has also forged a 20-year relationship with Worthington Elementary School in Worthington, Ky. near Ashland, Ky., since it was first commissioned.

“When we went to the school, they treated us like rock stars,” Arriza said. “I had never signed autographs before.”

And the hospitality extended further than hero worship.

“People took us into their homes, treated us like family,” Arriza said. “It’s great when a state takes an interest. I’ve been on four Trident subs and Kentucky has been the most involved.”

Ohio-class submarines are the largest subs in the U.S. Navy’s fleet, outsized only by Russian Typhoon-Class submarines. Nicknamed “Tridents” for the Trident submarine-launched-ballistic-missiles they carry, Ohio-class submarines can cruise nearly silently at 20 knots.

Commander Ben Pearson, the sub’s commanding officer, swore in Arriza before Mongiardo commissioned them, along with other sailors of the USS Kentucky, as Kentucky Colonels.

“It’s an honor to serve your country,” Arriza said, “But it’s a privilege to interact with people here and show your pride.”

The Kentucky is the third vessel to bear the Commonwealth’s name. The first was a Confederate transport that sank in June 1865 a few months after the Civil War ended. The second Kentucky was commissioned in May 1900. One of the most advanced warships of her

day, she sailed around the world in Teddy Roosevelt's Great White Fleet, demonstrating America's sea prowess. She was decommissioned in 1920.

Construction on a third USS Kentucky, an Iowa-class battleship, was initiated in 1944 in World War II, but was suspended in 1947 before she was complete.

Christened with Kentucky bourbon instead of champagne, the submarine USS Kentucky has been in active service since 1991. She has two crews of 173 officers and enlisted men operating alternate patrols.

As Kentucky Gov. William O. Bradley said at the launch of the Kentucky in 1898, "There is no better ship; there could be no better name."

Tea Room opens for hungry crew

When Navy Commander Ben Pearson and Master Chief Machinist's Mate Peter Arriza visited Frankfort Wednesday, they just had to have a Kentucky hot brown sandwich.

In town for Arriza's ceremonial re-enlistment at the Capitol Rotunda, Arriza and Pearson, along with seven other sailors on the USS Kentucky, stopped by the Candleberry Tea Room and Gift Box on a recommendation.

But it appeared that fortune was not smiling " they arrived just after the Louisville Road restaurant had closed for the day. That is until owner Andy Casebier spotted the men outside.

"It was really weird," Casebier said. "This whole chain of events allowed it to happen."

When Casebier approached to ask if they needed help, he got an answer he didn't expect.

Can you feed nine sailors and a civilian a Kentucky hot brown?

"We're very glad we were able to serve them," Casebier said. "They presented us a photo of the Kentucky with a note from Commander Pearson. It was very nice of them."

Casebier returned the favor, giving the sailors a Kentucky bourbon-flavored candle for the Kentucky, an Ohio-class submarine. But candles can't ordinarily be burned on a sub, so Casebier's gift will have to wait for a special occasion.

New Mexico (SSN 779) Celebrates Keel Laying

By Team Submarine Public Affairs, Navsea Newswire, April 18, 2008

The Virginia Class Submarine Program celebrated an important milestone with New Mexico's (SSN 779) keel laying ceremony on April 12, 2008, at Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding in Newport News, Va. This event precedes another key event in the construction of New Mexico-pressure hull completion-by approximately one month.

The ceremony started with a prayer in Navajo from Mr. Frank Willetto. Willetto is a New Mexico native and former Marine Corps "Navajo Code Talker," who saw service in the battles for Saipan and Okinawa during World War II. The highlight of the keel laying occurred when New Mexico's sponsor, Cynthia Giambastiani, wife of retired Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Edmund Giambastiani, had her initials welded onto a plate that will be permanently affixed inside the hull of the submarine. Mrs. Giambastiani has been a strong advocate for the U.S. Navy submarine community for more than three decades, volunteering in organizations supporting submariners and their families. In July 2005, she received the Distinguished Public Service Award for her continuous dedication to military spouses and families. In July 2000, the Navy awarded her the Meritorious Public Service Award by the Navy for her selfless support of the submarine and Navy communities.

"Mrs. Giambastiani's dedication to submariners and their families reminds us that the submarine community extends far beyond the waterfront," said Rear Adm. (sel) Dave Johnson, Virginia Class submarine Program Manager. "We are honored to have her as New Mexico's sponsor."

Virginia Class submarines are multi-mission platforms able to launch, support, and recover Special Operation Forces (SOF); strike targets far inland with precision using TOMAHAWK land-attack missiles; perform anti-submarine and anti-surface ship warfare; conduct intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions; and provide assured access and battlespace preparation.

"The Navy designed the right mix of capability and flexibility into the Virginia Class," said Rear Adm. William Hilarides, Program Executive Officer for Submarines. "Modularity and open architecture will allow the Virginia Class to accommodate new weapons and payloads to defeat evolving threats for the foreseeable future."

New Mexico, the sixth ship of the class, is being built under a teaming agreement between Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding, Newport News and General Dynamics Electric Boat. The submarine is on track to deliver in

August 2009, eight months early to its contract delivery date.

New Mexico's keel laying is the first of four major Virginia Class milestones upcoming in 2008. The fourth ship of the class, North Carolina (SSN 777), will commission on May 3 in Wilmington, N.C.

Launched on February 21, 2008, New Hampshire is scheduled to deliver in

August - eight months earlier than its contract delivery date - and it will commission on October 25 at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery,

Maine. This will mark the first time that the Navy commissioned two submarines of the same class in the same year since 1996 when the last of Los Angeles Class, USS Greeneville (SSN 772) and USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) joined the fleet.

Keel Laid For New Mexico Attack Sub

UPI, April 18, 2008

Northrop Grumman this month laid the keel of the new nuclear attack submarine New Mexico.

“The keel of a ship is its physical foundation. Yet the real foundation – the spiritual foundation, if you will – is laid by the men and women who take the raw material and craft it into a fighting warship,” said Mike Petters, corporate vice president and president of Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding.

“It’s the shipbuilders who breathe life into the ship. With New Mexico – these shipbuilders are men and women from Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding here at Newport News and General Dynamics Electric Boat – two companies teamed together to provide the most quality-driven and efficient product to the Navy,” Petters said.

“When this shipyard first opened, the number one priority was to build the best and most advanced ships in the world,” said Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott, D-Va. “Collis P. Huntington would be pleased to see the shipyard he founded over 120 years ago, not only still building ships but the best ships in the world.”

Cindy Giambastiani confirmed the New Mexico’s bow unit by inscribing her initials in chalk on a metal plate, and the initials were cut into the metal. Giambastiani is married to retired Navy Admiral and former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff Edmund P. Giambastiani Jr.

“The men and women who build America’s submarines build them as if they were going to sail them – as if their children were going to be aboard them. Because like the officers and crew who sail submarines, it takes a very defined set of skills to build them,” Mrs. Giambastiani said.

The New Mexico – SSN 779 – will be the sixth ship of the Virginia class. It is scheduled to be handed over to the U.S. Navy next year, and Northrop Grumman has described it as the most modern and sophisticated attack submarine in the world.

War On Drugs Goes Underwater

Southcom Chief Outlines New Tactics, Including ASW, To Battle Smart Smugglers

By Mark D. Faram, Navy Times, April 18, 2008

In the war on drugs in Central and South America, the Navy’s No. 1 weapon isn’t fast boats and deck guns – it’s anti-submarine warfare technology.

ASW techniques, once directed toward sniffing out Soviet sub-marines, are now finding drug-laden semi-submersible craft trying to sneak their cargo into the U.S., said Adm. James Stavridis, commander of U.S. Southern Command. “Our sailors are the primary line of defense in the interdiction of drugs,” Stavridis said in an interview. “We partner with other nations, with the Coast Guard Stavridis and Drug Enforcement Agency, but we go out to sea, we fly missions. The Navy is absolutely the indispensable element in all of the interdiction effort.”

Much of SouthCom’s efforts go to keeping illegal drugs from making it onto U.S. streets, where Stavridis says imported cocaine kills 5,000 to 7,000 people each year. It’s a trade that also causes corruption and instability in the countries the drugs come from, he said.

“From this part of the world, probably 350 tons of cocaine comes to the U.S. each year,” he said. “We have been stopping 250 tons a year, but a lot still gets through, more than we’re stopping.”

As U.S. efforts to interdict the drug trade get better, drug runners switch to new technologies and tactics to get around the search efforts. And now, the trade is moving into the world of sub-marines.

“These people are innovative, adaptive and organized,” Stavridis said. “We have seen an explosion in the use of semi-submersible craft that skim along the water line, helping them avoid radar and visual detection.”

The technology is crude but effective, he said.

“It’s just a diesel engine in a fiberglass hull with a snorkel, a primitive periscope and crude seating for two to four personnel and up to 10 tons of cocaine,” Stavridis said.

“What worries me about that is if you can move that much cocaine, what else can you put in that semi-submersible. Can you put a weapon of mass destruction in it? I’m very concerned about that.”

According to SouthCom statistics, three of the submersible craft were detected in 2006. Forty were detected in 2007.

As of April 4, this year’s count was already at 30. This has caused Stavridis to redouble efforts, since only eight of the submersible craft have been interdicted from 2006 to now, although seven others have been found on land before they could launch in the past two years.

“We’re going to take the techniques we learned in the Cold War going after Soviet submarines and we’re going to be able to apply those techniques in this theater,” he said.

“We’re going to be able to use acoustics, overhead sensors, the tails on our surface ships as well as submarines and unmanned aerial vehicles. We are working this situation very hard because these are difficult targets to locate.”

More missions

But the admiral’s Miami-based command isn’t only about catching drug runners.

Stavridis said he also plans to step up efforts for humanitarian and cooperative military exercises with Central and South American countries this year with the deployment of two amphibious assault ships this spring through fall. It will be a follow-up to the deployment of the hospital ship Comfort and the high-speed vessel Swift during the summer of 2007.

"It's a different world down here," Stavridis said. "It's a part of the world where we're thankfully not launching Tomahawk missiles." U.S. forces are launching ideas to combat radical movements in those areas. "So I think the first thing to appreciate is that we're not in a combat scenario down here, but rather a cooperative scenario," he said.

Not only does Stavridis want to send more amphibs to the region, he also wants to more high-speed vessels.

"The HSV is a fabulous capability for what we do down here," he said.

As a result, he said, the Navy has committed to place some of these vessels under the control of Southern Command once they're built.

"They were built as car carriers and have a draft of 8 feet, can move 600 tons of cargo and can cruise at 40 to 50 knots with a crew of maybe 25 – I can put them anywhere in the [area of responsibility]."

But it will be 2011 before the first production model of an HSV is built and fielded by the military, Navy officials say. The current models, the Joint Venture and Swift, were leased from their Australian owners and are being re-turned this year.

Navy officials say they plan purchase seven of the ships, one per year between 2009 and 2013, when two more purchased at a time to be announced. The Army will purchase five of the ships between 2008 and 2012.

In the meantime, other Navy ship will visit the area, Stavridis said.

In April, the aircraft carrier George Washington will make two port visits and operate with local navies as it transits to the Pacific to replace the Kitty Hawk in Japan this summer.

Later this year, the amphibious assault ships Boxer and Kearsarge will deploy to South America.

The Boxer will visit Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru in May and June, while the Kearsarge will stay in the Atlantic and Caribbean and visit Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Nicaragua, Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago from August through November.

Though each of the ships will carry a company-sized element of Marines to operate and train with their host countries, the bulk of the deployment will be a humanitarian effort.

The Boxer and Kearsarge crews will work alongside other health care providers from U.S. Department of State and the Public Health Service as well as with nongovernmental organizations such as Project Hope and Operation Smile.

"We wanted something to follow up to show those in the region the Comfort deployment wasn't a one-trick pony," he said.

"We're calling the deployments Operation Continuing Promise, and this is a good example of the kind of missions sailors will be engaged in down here in the coming years."

Indo-US Nuclear Deal, Rises Eyebrows

By Syed Nazakat, Merinews, April 20, 2008

The much talked about deal-the nuclear deal-between India and the US has brought in fresh concerns from the neighbouring countries. The deal, which is more of a personal benefit for both sides, promises to strengthen ties between the two nations.

WHILE THE Bush administration is still working hard to get the US Congress' stamp of approval for the civilian nuclear deal with India, the strategic partnership between the two countries has already begun to reach a new high.

A fortnight after president Bush's visit to India, Pentagon officials are now exploring ways to build a closer strategic relationship with India. The Pentagon is saying that India will be able to buy more sophisticated fighter aircraft and other hi-tech arms from the US as part of the closer defence relationship between the two nations.

In a statement issued in Washington after president Bush's visit the US department of defense (DoD) said that it is the Bush administration's aim to help meet India's defence needs and to provide the important capabilities and technologies that India seeks.

At present India and the US are negotiating various weapons deals. But the most significant is the US offer to sell Patriot missiles to India. A senior officer in the ministry of external affairs (MEA) told Sahara Time that if the Patriot deal goes through, comparing Indian military acquisitions from the US with Pakistan's will be redundant. The Patriots will drastically improve India's military capability, giving it a qualitative edge over both China and Pakistan.

"The DoD statement is very significant. We are entering a new era of strategic partnership," says Uday Bhaskar, defence analyst and vice chairman of the Indian Institute of Defense Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi. "And the best thing about this relationship is that it will be a close and long term strategic relationship".

The thrust on the security and strategic partnership in the joint statement issued in New Delhi at the end of the talks between president Bush and prime minister Manmohan Singh is also very significant. It is believed to be the final prelude to the Bush administration's new policy towards India. The base for the close strategic ties between New Delhi and Washington was laid much before Bush's visit to India.

Going by the framework of the July 18, 2005 US-India defence relationship pact, India holds a key position in the American scheme of things. In the bilateral context the framework seeks to enable cooperation in defence technology, sharing intelligence and having a counter-terrorism working group, continued joint exercises and exchanges, increasing opportunities for technology transfer, collaboration, co-production and research and development. The defense policy group (DPG), which has continued to guide the India-US defence and strategic relationship, has had detailed meetings during the last one year on how to shape and develop defence and strategic cooperation.

The US is interested in having a close strategic relationship with India because the changes in India's strategic significance, the rapidly growing Indian economy which is touching eight per cent GDP growth per annum, the huge middle class (300 million), the vast scope for foreign direct investment and the rapidly growing IT sector have made India globally more visible. Today the US is India's biggest business partner, with bilateral trade worth \$20 billion in 2004, the largest foreign investor in the Indian stock market and the biggest foreign backer of Indian business.

The US, which is the largest supplier of arms to developing nations, is also making a feverish pitch for a slice of the Rs 89,000 crore defence budget of India. About 44 per cent of the defence outlay is for the purchase of weapons systems.

"There is a growing understanding in the US, that India is emerging as a big global power," says Shashank, former foreign secretary. "So everybody wants to have a close relationship with India to benefit from India's strategic position in Asia and its rapid economic growth". That seems to be the reason that despite the US' offer of a \$1.2 billion arms package to Pakistan, policy makers in New Delhi feel that the Bush administration wants a close and long term strategic alliance with India. "I think for the first time India-US relations could be seen on separate merits. They are well framed, long and more strategic in nature", points out Shashank.

India too – both for political and military reasons- wants to move closer to the US. However there is a section of bureaucrats in South Block who are skeptical about Washington's credentials as a long-term ally. This section has been arguing that at this juncture India cannot afford to annoy old friend Russia. In fact even the government seems to be giving weight-age to their logic that Russia is India's old reliable friend and traditional supplier of weapons. Hence, immediately after signing the civilian nuclear deal prime minister Manmohan Singh briefed Russian president Vladimir Putin on the deal and 'other' things. But at the heart of the US' growing interest in India is the Bush administration's efforts to use India as a counterweight to China, which it sees as its main competitor in Asia.

"No one should be fooled into thinking that the US' interest in India and the nuclear deal is about global warming and reducing pressure on oil," says Anuradha Chenoy, professor of international studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). "The actual rationale is to develop a strategic relationship to deal with the perceived challenges from China.

In fact, the latest quadrennial defense review (QDR), a policy document of the Pentagon, which comes out every four years, once again underlines the growing military prowess of China. The QDR calls for boosting the number of naval ships in the Pacific Ocean. It would like to put six of the US navy's 12 aircraft carriers and 60 per cent of its submarine forces in the Pacific at all times to support engagement, presence, and deterrence.

China, which was the first country to express its concern over the India-U.S. nuclear deal, has hiked its defence budget for 2006 by 14.7 per cent (35.09 billion US dollars) saying its military will be further strengthened to "fight a defensive war" and safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

Plan B From Hell

Strategy Page, April 17, 2008

A British SSBN (nuclear powered ballistic missile submarine) was recently discovered to have a fist sized hole in its hull. The hole, caused by corrosion, was patched, but questions were raised about why such a thing could happen. Well, it's complicated.

The sub in question, HMS Revenge, was decommissioned in the 1980s. It's nuclear fuel, weapons and all noxious chemicals were removed. But the nuclear reactor is still radioactive, and will remain so for thousands of years. When the sub was built, in 1969, the plan was to simply sink the sub, in very deep water, when it was decommissioned. But that practice has since been outlawed by international treaty. Plan B was to cut up the decommissioned nuclear subs, and then bury the radioactive bits in a national repository for radioactive waste. But there has never been any agreement on where to locate said national repository.

The current plan is to do nothing and wait. Plan B for that plan is to eventually (just before the old nuclear boats rot so much that they no longer stay afloat) cut them up and store the radioactive section (the reactor compartment) near the naval base (Rosyth, in Scotland) where these retired subs are tied up. The government does not want to discuss this, as the Scots would not be pleased. But possession is 9/10ths and all that. Besides, the English have been screwing the Scots for centuries, and you know how the Brits are about tradition.

Could Israel Use Submarines Against Iran?

By Dan Williams, Reuters, April 17, 2008

Anticipating a showdown with Iran, Israel decides secretly to deploy a submarine off its arch-foe's coast.

But how? The quickest route from Israel's Mediterranean coast is via the Suez Canal, which runs through Egypt and which the classified vessels shun. So the submarine is hidden in the belly of a commercial tanker, which delivers it to the Gulf.

Such is the plot of an Israeli thriller, "Undersea Diplomacy". Does it hold water? Perhaps not. Then again, the author, Shlomo Erell, is no mere novelist. He's an ex-admiral with experience in Israel's most sensitive military planning.

"It's pure fiction, but it's informed fiction," he said simply, when asked if his book reflects how the Israeli fleet of Dolphin-class submarines could be used against Iran, whose leadership has called for Israel to be "wiped off the map", stoking international concern over Tehran's nuclear programme.

Israel has three Dolphins, with two more on order from Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft, a German shipyard custom-building them at a steep discount as part of Berlin's bid to shore up a Jewish state founded in the wake of the Nazi Holocaust.

The submarines are a subject of deepest secrecy given speculation that they carry nuclear-tipped cruise missiles.

Many analysts believe the Dolphins are Israel's "second strike" weapons, referring to the Cold War theory that a country can deter foes from launching nuclear attacks by maintaining the ability to retaliate, even after its own territory has been laid waste. A nuclear "platform" out at sea is the best guarantee.

Iran denies seeking nuclear weapons, and independent experts say it is years away from any such capability. Some, in turn, think Israel's expanding submarine fleet may be part of preparations to foil the perceived future threat through force.

"There is nothing on the horizon to suggest Iran would have the capability to knock out Israel's nuclear delivery means," said Sam Gardiner, a retired U.S. air force colonel who stages Middle East wargames for U.S. government and private clients.

The Dolphins, he said, may be part of "a conventional capability to deal with the number of targets Israel believes would need to be struck in a conventional preemptive attack".

DISTANCE NO OBJECT?

Israel sent jets to bomb Iraq's nuclear reactor in 1981 and has hinted it could do the same against Iranian facilities if U.S.-led diplomatic pressure failed to rein in Tehran's plans.

But the Iraqi raid was on a single site, relatively close to Israel's borders. Targets in Iran might be too numerous and distant for Israel's air force, especially as intermediate Arab states or Turkey would likely refuse overflight rights.

Israel is assumed to have ballistic missiles, yet its small size may make surprise launches impossible: an unannounced missile test in January became news within minutes as the startled residents of nearby towns reported the roaring takeoff.

Submarines could bridge the gap, especially if positioned in Iranian waters. That possibility has given rise to speculation that Israel wants five Dolphins in order to allow for at least one to be at sea at all times while others are being serviced.

The question remains of how far they might travel.

Israeli navy sources say the Dolphins do not use the Suez – to avoid being inspected by Egyptian harbourmasters. That means that, to reach the Gulf, Israel would either have to resort to fantastical ruses like the one in "Undersea Diplomacy", or send the submarines around Africa – a month-long trip at least.

Jason Alderwick, a maritime analyst with the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, is sceptical.

"I don't buy the idea of a rotation. These submarines have not been purchased with a view to operating in the Gulf," he said. As Dolphins run on conventional rather than nuclear power so require regular refuelling and shore maintenance, he described them as better suited to close Mediterranean missions.

Israel also has access to the Red Sea through Eilat port. But navy sources said there was no plan to dock submarines there because the narrow Red Sea, which is shared with several Arab states, is vulnerable to blockades at the Straits of Tiran.

DETERRENTS NEVER USED

Restricted to the Mediterranean, analysts point out, the Israeli Dolphins could pose a "second-strike" threat to Iran only if they carried nuclear cruise missiles capable of hitting targets as far as 1,500 km (970 miles) away.

Lee Willett of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies noted that Dolphins lacked the vertical tubes used by much bigger Western and Soviet-era submarines to launch ballistic missiles.

Cold War tests showed nuclear warheads are too heavy to be delivered long distances on cruise missiles, so Israel could hit Iran only with conventional warheads if they were fired from the Mediterranean, he said.

A nuclear attack on Iran by a Dolphin, Willett argued, would have to be from the Gulf, which in turn would give away an unsupported submarine's position and probably doom it to being destroyed by surviving Iranian forces.

"The whole point of a deterrent is that it's never used," Willett said. "In designing the Dolphins as a second-strike platform, I imagine the Israelis were thinking 'it's not ideal, but it's the best we've got'."

Israel does not discuss its nuclear capabilities, under an "ambiguity" policy billed as warding off regional enemies while avoiding the kind of provocations that can trigger arms races.

Erell appeared to support such thinking. The message of his book – which made a modest splash in Israel, and is currently available only in Hebrew – was "how to use a submarine without resorting to war". "It's about affecting statecraft," he said.

CNO OK's New Radars For 688-Class A-Subs

UPI, April 14, 2008

The U.S. Navy has approved a Northrop Grumman radar for use on its 688-class nuclear attack subs. The Office of the Chief of Naval Operations has given the go-ahead for installation of Northrop Grumman's AN/BPS-15H radars on its Los Angeles-class 688 nuclear attack submarines, the company said in a recent statement. The AN/BPS-15H is now certified as an authorized Electronic Chart Display and Information System, Navy for the 688-class submarine fleet. The radars are manufactured by Northrop Grumman's Sperry Marine business unit.

The CNO's certification covers AN/BPS-15H systems running under Sperry Marine's Voyage Management System software that functions with Submarine Warfare Federated Tactical Systems on the Los Angeles-class submarines, Northrop Grumman said. The certification was given after the radars were subjected to extensive assessments on the U.S. nuclear submarine USS Boise — SSN 764 — the company said.

“This is a major milestone in the U.S. Navy’s drive to convert from navigating on paper nautical charts to ECDIS-N technology, opening the way for rapid adoption of paperless navigation throughout the submarine fleet,” said J. Nolasco DaCunha, vice president of Sperry Marine.

“Under the CNO directive, fleet commanders can now authorize the AN/BPS-15H with VMS as the primary navigation plot on individual submarines in place of paper charts,” DaCunha said.

Following the CNO’s decision, seven U.S. Navy surface ships and five nuclear submarines have received the go-ahead to use Sperry Marine’s ECDIS-N radars as their main navigating instruments, Northrop Grumman said.

“Sperry Marine’s VMS is the only navigation system that is approved to meet the CNO requirements for ECDIS-N,” said DaCunha. “Our VMS-based ECDIS-N systems are currently installed on or under contract for over 150 U.S. Navy surface ships and submarines.”

Northrop Grumman said Sperry Marine had manufactured comparable radars for hundreds of commercial ships, including tankers, container carriers and passenger cruise ships. The commercial VMS was certified by many national maritime authorities and classification societies as coming up to international ECDIS specifications, it said.

Northrop Grumman’s Sperry Marine organization is based in Charlottesville, Va.

Navy To Begin Testing Periscope Camera That Provides 360-Degree View

By Geoff Fein, Defense Daily, April 15, 2008

This summer, the Navy will begin testing a prototype advanced camera for Los Angeles-class submarine periscopes that will provide a 360-degree scan of the surrounding waters.

Developed by Massachusetts-based RemoteReality, the prototype will also provide nighttime views using an infrared sensor, Dennis McGinn, chairman and chief executive officer, told Defense Daily in a recent interview.

One idea behind the company’s prototype is to enable submarines to get a quick 360-degree view, thus avoiding prolonged exposure by the boat’s periscope.

McGinn, a retired vice admiral, said that his experience in anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercises demonstrated that a large percentage of submarines were detected either by visual sighting or radar detection of a periscope or the wake of a periscope.

“Submariners, from a self-protection standpoint ...defensive standpoint...try to maintain their stealth profile to minimize the time they have something sticking up above the waves,” he said.

But the primary driver for RemoteReality’s system is to help boats avoid incidents such as the 2001 collision between the USS Greenville (SSN-772) and the Japanese fishing vessel Ehime Maru near Oahu, Hawaii.

“Part of the board of inquiry that was done afterward determined [the Greenville] had gone up to periscope depth, but because of a combination of the water conditions and the limitations of the field of view, the scan rate around the horizon by the periscope, they had missed the presence of the ship and they assumed that nothing was there,” said McGinn, who was the deputy chief of naval operations for warfare requirements and programs before retiring.

“With a system like ours they would have been able to get that quick look...as they were positioning for the maneuver they were going to do and then they would have detected [the Ehime Maru],” he added.

Right now submarines have various sensors on the periscope, but they all have the common characteristics of a limited field of view, McGinn noted. “With our day/night periscope system on there, you put the periscope up and have an instantaneous picture all the way around the horizon...360-degrees, without having to turn the periscope or the camera to compensate for the limited field of view.”

The image can then be displayed in a panoramic view on a flat screen monitor—divided into two 180-degree, undistorted, views, McGinn said.

RemoteReality is working with the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) in Newport, R.I., on installation and testing of the prototype.

“It’s in the process [of being installed],” McGinn said. “The key milestone we are pleased to see, they are going to take it out to sea in the Pacific in June.”

The day/night 360-degree camera consists of two optic systems, lenses, that provide the 360-degree panoramic view. One sensor is for daytime, visual light while the other is for infrared. The signal is then fed down to existing display systems in the submarine’s command center, he added.

“We have worked with NUWC as far as the best way to integrate the product of these sensors into the existing displays,” McGinn said.

RemoteReality has been using common off-the-shelf modules to avoid a situation where the submarine has this wonderful sensor, but there is a horrible integration problem, McGinn said.

“We eliminate the integration problem right up front by the approach we have for using existing software modules,” he added.

“One of the things we are really proud about, as a small high tech company, we were able to meet very, very stringent standards. The real estate on a submarine periscope is precious, and the challenge is to get the right size package that is compatible with other sensors and electronics, and the mechanical gear in that very, very limited space,” McGinn said. “We were able to do that very smoothly, right on time, and the relationship with the Navy engineers at NUWC and the program office has just been superb.”

The company has also been exploring surface and land uses for this technology too, McGinn added.

They have been working with the Coastal Area Protection System program office at Panama City, Fla. McGinn said the technology is deployed down there.

“It has a lot of great capability [that] it brings to the mission area of coastal area protection, harbor protection—from both a security standpoint and safety and monitoring standpoint,” he said.

The technology has also been deployed on Humvees, and McGinn sees the potential for the camera’s use on Bradley Fighting Vehicles and Abrams Tanks to improve situational awareness and driver vision enhancement.

Robert Kaplan On The New Balance Of Power

By Trudy Kuehner, Spero News, April 14, 2008

Kaplan explained that this strong defense relationship is all about Asian balance-of-power politics. India and China, which share a long land border and therefore have to maintain stable relations, are inexorably coming into competition with each other.

Mr. Kaplan began by offering observations based on his recent trip to India, from which he had just returned. While there, he met with the chiefs of the army and navy, the foreign and finance ministers, and numerous other officials, along with leading intellectuals and journalists. The word “Iraq” never came up in any of the talks, he said. One might expect, given the unpopularity of the U.S. adventure in Iraq, that the subject would come up in a foreign setting, but it did not. India is focused on and obsessed with China, he said. It used to be compared with Pakistan, and India’s elite used to be obsessed with the threat from Pakistan. That has changed. They are now obsessed with the competition with China, and India is one major place where President Bush enjoys popularity, even among the intellectuals, the writers, journalists. That is because Bush, following on from the second Clinton administration, has been very pro-India. The U.S. has sold the USS Trenton, a former amphibious ship, to the Indian navy; it has sold the Indians F-18 Super Hornets, it has replaced all their P-3 surveillance planes with P-8s, and there are constant bilateral military exercises between the U.S. Air Force and Navy and the Indian Air Force and Navy.

Rising Asia

Kaplan explained that this strong defense relationship is all about Asian balance-of-power politics. India and China, which share a long land border and therefore have to maintain stable relations, are inexorably coming into competition with each other. India’s sphere of influence extends to the borders of the old British India, from the Iranian plateau to the Gulf of Thailand, encompassing Burma, where it is involved in a quiet war of influence with China. It is extending east and west. During the days of the British viceroys in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Persian Gulf, Middle East, and Southeast Asia empire was not run from London, but from the viceroy’s headquarters in Calcutta. India is now assuming those dimensions.

Meanwhile, Kaplan noted, China is pushing southward. The Chinese are building warm-water ports in Gwadar in Pakistan and in Mawlamyaing in Burma; they are going to start at Chittagong in Bangladesh. All these places are closer to cities in western and southwestern China than those cities are to Beijing and Shanghai. That is, developing warm-water ports in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea, both part of the larger Indian Ocean, is a way for much of China’s landmass to break out of being landlocked.

Kaplan observed that this is the world that is being created while the U.S. is focused on messy counterinsurgencies in Iraq and Afghanistan, even if new powers are quietly rising up. The total result of the Iraq War, to him, is that it has fast-forwarded the arrival of the Asian century. India now has the world’s fourth largest navy; it is about to have the third largest. It will soon take delivery of its first nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine. Meanwhile, China’s navy is growing to be in asymmetric terms a peer competitor of the U.S., the Japanese Navy is now three times, soon to be four times, the size of Britain’s Royal Navy. All this is happening not just while the U.S. is deeply involved in two countries in the greater Middle East, but also as European defense budgets are starved at 2 percent or less of their GDPs.

What interests Kaplan is that, as an indicator of where the future is going, Europe has not been able to take advantage strategically or in many other ways of the U.S. quagmire in Iraq and the growing one in Afghanistan, but the Asian countries have. Asian militaries are becoming real civilian-military postindustrial complexes. The fact that the Chinese or Indian armies are so large was for decades meaningless, because they were poorly trained and badly equipped, more useful for defending long land borders and bringing in crops than for actual deployment, maneuverability, and fighting. That is changing rapidly. The Indians are using the Israelis to develop a new space satellite technology tied in with their own military. India and China’s software prowess is increasingly having military dimensions.

Europe is more complicated, he noted. Few if any places have a worse civil-military defense relationship than Europe. Europeans see their own militaries as suited for peacekeeping and other non-combat related duties. And yet because of its economic power, Europe will continue to be a military power in the future. This is where NATO comes in. NATO is no longer the all-for-one, one-for-all organization that faced down a Soviet threat in the heart of Europe. NATO now includes many more countries (26), it is gradually spreading eastward, and it is dealing with a multiplicity of challenges, whether Afghanistan or peacekeeping, where each deployment is going to see different NATO countries involved.

NATO is not the same all-powerful alliance that it was for us during the Cold War, but neither is it irrelevant, Kaplan said. It remains relevant precisely because we are entering an Asian century. If the U.S. is going to be in strategic competition with China and is going to quietly, subtly leverage countries like India and Japan, or South Korea and Australia, against China, the U.S. will continue to need a partnership with Europe.

NATO may not be able to do everything the U.S. hoped it would, Kaplan acknowledged, but it is still the better option than the U.S. going it alone. The October 2001 invasion of Afghanistan was, in purely military terms, carried out brilliantly. The U.S. leveraged 21st-century technology with 19th-century techniques-Special Forces on horseback calling in air strikes with mobile transmitters on specific targets. But from a political, strategic point of view, it made a mistake. By going it alone, without a full-fledged NATO presence, it did not give our NATO allies a stake in the outcome. Because they did not have a stake in the outcome from the beginning, it is increasingly hard to keep them involved as time goes on.

Naval Threats

If Afghanistan has taught that it might not be wise to go it alone, notwithstanding the quick initial results one can achieve that way, Kaplan said; and if Iraq has shown the U.S. the crude, low-tech end of asymmetry with IEDs and other devices, then the Chinese competition is going to show the U.S. the very sophisticated, subtle, high-tech end of asymmetry in the naval and other realms. The Chinese are not competing with the U.S. across the board; they are concentrating on three things: (1) submarines, (2) missiles that can hit moving targets at sea, and (3) the ability to knock out satellites in space, all of which put together constitute an asymmetric threat against the U.S. navy. That asymmetric threat is not designed to get into a war with the U.S., but to deny the U.S. access whenever and wherever it wants, from the Asian mainland to the Chinese coast, to make it think twice before entering a zone where its carriers could be hit by a missile. This will dissuade U.S. movements and affect U.S. strategy. And ultimately, Kaplan noted, power is the ability to affect your competitors' mode of operations.

Kaplan emphasized navies because right now the U.S. is obsessed with low-tech land wars, even though 70-80 percent of all goods and commercial items in this globalized age travel by sea. About 80 percent of humanity lives close to the sea. Navies have advantages that armies do not. Navies can forward deploy to within a few miles of a combat zone without a debate in Congress, something that armies cannot. When the U.S. sent two aircraft carriers through the Taiwan Strait in 1996, there was no debate in Congress. Nor was there debate when two carrier strike groups were sent to within the Iranian coast. Had the Army tried to do the equivalent, it would have been front page news worldwide. In fact, much of 2007 was taken up with a debate about the U.S. army deploying against Iran.

New Geopolitics

Kaplan feels that we tend to divide the world up artificially into old Cold War classifications of the Middle East, the South Asian Indian subcontinent, and the Pacific Rim of East Asia. These divisions were forced on the U.S. by the Cold War, in which the country had a whole world to patrol, in a way. And so Washington broke it up into academic specialties in order to get a better grip on things. But increasingly, as China, North Korea, Japan, and India do more and more trade with Iran and Syria, and the Indian and Chinese navies are increasingly in the Persian Gulf, these boundaries are breaking apart. A holistic map of Eurasia is reasserting itself. Any conflict with Iran would involve India and China in some way, because of all the trade they do there. The Persian Gulf is about to become much more clogged with oil supertankers than it ever was. That is because among a number of big phenomena going on in the world today, Kaplan said, one is the growth of the Chinese and Indian middle classes.

India has 1.5 billion people. Its middle class is growing from 200 million to a predicted 350 million. China has similar statistics. Middle classes are acquisitive, Kaplan observed. They buy things and consume a lot of energy. And so the growth of these middle classes means tremendous energy consumption, much of which is going to have to be solved by oil. Ninety percent of India's energy requirements are going to be filled by oil in the Persian Gulf within a few years, as opposed to 65 percent today. China's statistics are similar. We are about to see a major energy highway from the Persian Gulf across the Indian Ocean to the strait of Malacca to China and Japan and across the Persian Gulf to the west coast of India. Energy politics are going to tie China and India much more closely to the Arab and Persian world than they ever were before.

This is why the U.S. position now in the Middle East is untenable, Kaplan argued. The U.S. has to find a way gradually, with carrots and sticks, to open up Iran and have some sort of normalized relationship with that country. The rest of the world is not going to wait the U.S. out, but is moving closer to Iran and Russia, because crude oil petroleum prices are going to continue to go up over the long run because of the growth of middle classes around the world.

Africa

Kaplan recalled his years of writing about anarchy in Africa since the 1990s. Africa is usually seen as a disaster story, he said, one of the latest of which is Kenya, a place of tribal rebellions and ethnic clashes. But Africa is slowly changing, too. Increasingly the ethnic conflicts there are going to be part of the wages of success rather than the wages of failure. Africa represents the last untapped global food market in the world, because commodity prices are going to gradually go up, too, for basic foodstuffs, again because of the growth of the middle class in the developing world. And so we have China investing in Africa more and more. Africa, Kaplan noted, had higher GDP growth rates the last few years than all of Asia, taking India and China out of the equation. Africa is finally starting to catch up, ironically, not because of aid from the West, but because of trade and investment from other parts of the former third world, from sovereign wealth funds in Dubai and China. We're going to be faced with competition for resources in Africa with the Chinese, whether it's oil in the Gulf of Guinea or coal in Mozambique and other parts of southern Africa.

The Chinese are all over the African continent now, Kaplan observed. The U.S.-China competition over Africa is going to be in a strange way similar to the U.S.-Soviet competition over Africa during the Cold War. But the Chinese will not be like the Soviets. The

Chinese are building roads, investing in far more subtle ways than the Soviets did. They're developing area expertise. The Chinese learned from their mistakes in a way the Soviets never did. As an example, the Soviets never developed a strong noncommissioned officer corps in their military, who were mainly a band of ill-trained thugs. The Chinese are spending a lot of money on upgrading the quality of their enlisted ranks, particularly on submarines, knowing that it is the enlisted ranks much more than the officer corps that determine the character of the military. The Chinese will be flexible, formidable competitors in many ways.

All this is occurring as central power in the Middle East continues to erode, Kaplan reported. Whether it is dictatorships in Egypt or Saudi Arabia or legitimate pro-Western monarchies like in Morocco or Jordan; whether it is more in-between regimes like in Tunisia, Algeria; semi-democratic ones like in South Yemen; or family corporate-style enterprises like along the Arabian Gulf, leaders, even dictators, increasingly have to listen to their own people and consult with their own people in order to take decisions. So dictatorship is weakening throughout the Middle East, as is democracy, which is not a success almost anywhere in the Middle East. Central power is weakening as fewer countries have a three- or four-man elite that determines history in these countries. There is now a whole class of people, 100-200 people who make up an increasingly modernizing elite.

There are some interesting exceptions, Kaplan noted. In Oman, the ruler has absolute power and runs a medieval-style dynasty that is very pro-Western, pro-American. The country has numerous daycare and women's clinics, everything you would consider progressive. All this is being done through an absolute feudal, medieval dictatorship. Kaplan noted this to illustrate that the situation on the ground worldwide does not always comport with debates in Washington on what systems work and which don't.

When Kaplan spent two weeks in Oman two months ago, he reported, Omanis were full of questions about the freedom Americans tell them they do not have. They thought life was good and said they didn't want "freedom" like that in Iraq or elsewhere. Of course, Iraq is an unfair example, Kaplan conceded. One could point to other places where a more open system has led to development. But democracy is not the last word in human political development. There will be all kinds of variations and systems to deal with. America is increasingly going to have to share power with countries in Asia, and doing business with the Middle East is going to get harder and harder because there are more and more people who will have to be consulted and convinced in each of these countries.

U.S. Military

The last war, the one in which we're presently engaged, is never a good indicator of wars of the future, Kaplan said. The 1870 Franco-Prussian War gave no indication of what World War I would be like, Korea gave no indication of what Vietnam would be like, WWII gave no indication of Korea, and Gulf War I gave no indication of the current Iraq War. So the U.S. may master the arts of land-based counterinsurgency just as that recedes over the horizon and is irrelevant for future challenges and conflicts.

Counterinsurgency will certainly play a part in America's future, he said, but probably only a part. The U.S. will increasingly depend on its air force and navy to patrol large spaces around the world, while the army and marine corps experiment at the unconventional edges of conflict. The air force and navy are going to have no choice but to utilize coalition-building and alliances with other air forces and navies around the world.

The Indian navy and air force would like to dominate the Indian Ocean from Mozambique all the way to Indonesia, Kaplan pointed out. But they cannot do that except as part of an alliance with the U.S. navy and air force. One major military development of the past year was an exercise off the coast of India in which India and the U.S. and also the navies and air forces of Japan and Australia took part, sort of the Malabar exercises of democracy. The Chinese took umbrage at this, seeing it for what it was: a group of countries balancing against them. But America cannot assume that it can crudely lever two democracies, India and Japan, against China, because China is the largest trading partner for both those countries.

Conclusion

Kaplan concluded that going forward, the U.S. will have to build bridges with China even as it strengthens India and Japan and continues working hard to keep NATO relevant and inclusive. It will have to work on a lot of fronts, and the main theme is that if you go it alone, you can often get to a point faster than if you do it in a coalition, but if you want to get to the next point and the point after that and the point after that, you've ultimately got to do it with a coalition. So it's better to go slow at the beginning and achieve some long-term ends afterwards. Kaplan emphasized that he was not speaking about the weakening of American power, but about other countries catching up and finding ways to neutralize the U.S. over time.

He did note that the U.S. is struggling with something it brought about in the first place. After WWII, with Asia and Europe devastated, the U.S. came to dominate the Pacific Ocean as its own private American lake for the next 50-60 years. Those days are ending, because the rest of the world finally caught up. They rebuilt after WWII, which took some decades, and they developed their economies. A lot of poor countries are now developing and becoming more free and open, and as they do so, their nationalism is growing, too. This is because nationalism tends to grow in the first generation or two of middle classes, when you have an influential group of literate people who understand their country's history for the first time in collective memory. So the world playing field is more equal than ever, precisely because we tried to change the world and succeeded. The old stereotype of India being poor and downtrodden no longer holds. True, it has 700 million people who live on \$1-2 a day. But Delhi and Mumbai are also becoming modern cities. Calcutta is becoming a high-tech center and a gateway to Southeast Asia.

So borders within Asia are crumbling. These countries are increasingly interconnected, and new economic prowess is leading to strengthened militaries. The U.S. military's goal in the future, Kaplan concluded, is going to be a combination of having sea-basing and other capabilities that will allow the U.S. to be unencumbered by alliances, on one hand, even as we try to strengthen alliances wherever we can, on the other hand. It is a matter of being as flexible as possible. Kaplan predicts that whoever is elected the next U.S. president, whether Republican or Democrat, will evolve sooner or later into something very Nixonian in terms of foreign policy. After the first year, whoever is elected is going to be a power balancer.

We're entering a world of 19th-century balance of power on several different levels, Kaplan ended. All Metternich had to worry about was Europe; today we have to show the same adroitness at balancing across the whole world.

Political Signal Analysis, 2008: A Decryption and Noise Filtering Guide for the Perplexed

Opinion by Michael Hyman

In the early 1990s I was working full time as an electronic engineer and also going to graduate school full time—a rather impossible schedule now that I think about it, but I somehow got through it successfully. After graduation, I thought that I'd volunteer for my company's "Ethics Committee." Having an advanced degree in philosophy from a well-accredited university, I believed myself to be as qualified as anyone to determine proper behavior in a variety of settings—in fact, I felt that I was better qualified than most persons on the committee since no one else came even close to holding my credentials..

My offer was graciously but flatly rejected. When inquiring why, I discovered something that I should have realized but did not think about before then. Ethics—traditionally an area of classical philosophy—has nothing to do with right and wrong when placed in a corporate environment; rather, ethics in the workplace is a collection of rules and regulations (often times unwritten and vague) to protect the corporation from getting sued for a variety of reasons, the most common of which are sexual harassment and unfair termination. They are set up to protect the interests of the company rather than for the benefit of the employees. Frequently, truth has little to do with the decisions made. As long as the corporation is legally untouchable, the "ethical" thing has been done.

I thought that the whole situation was like something out of a novel by George Orwell (the author of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and *Animal Farm*) and I still feel the same way about it today. I am still amazed how a word—in this case, ethics—can have its definition perverted after centuries of established usage. But I really shouldn't be!

In 1946, George Orwell wrote a wonderful essay concerning the use of the English language in politics. The essay was written before the advent of television, sound-snippets, and other consciousness altering conveniences (I will touch on this further on); nonetheless, its message is still as valid today as it was when Orwell wrote it.

Orwell hated totalitarianism in any form. He despised German National Socialism, Italian Fascism (and offshoots such as Roosevelt's National Recovery Act and New Deal), and Russian Communism with equal contempt.

His concern was that catchy phrases, foreign words, the addition of flowery adjectives or adverbs for emphasis, nifty metaphors, the excessive use of compositional form in place of real content, the redefining of common words and phrases, using positive wording for negative actions, and the introduction of new words and phrases whose definitions are vague, are tools for distorting the truth—he also believed that the political arena is usually more often a battle of obtaining and retaining power (this is true on both sides of the aisle) than a quest for representatives who will enact legislation based on fact rather than on agenda.

Were Orwell's observations correct? Certainly totalitarian regimes such as those found in Communist China, North Korea, certain Central and South American states, some African and most Islamic entities, and during its existence, the old Soviet bloc, have felt this way since all have banned Orwell's writings along with those of Kafka, Huxley, and numerous other authors (Red China, with the help of US mega firms Microsoft and Yahoo, has actually filtered out any mention of these writers along with any mention of democracy on internet search engines accessible within its borders).

The American political left certainly believes that Orwell's ideas are valid. Based on their accusation of the political right's use of Orwellian double-think and new-speak, one cannot come to any other conclusion—for example, billionaire George Soros as recently as 2007 accused late President Ronald Reagan of using Orwellian speech when he uttered his famous, "There you go again." However, the political left can be accused of the same offense in both word and deed.

In a recent poll where numerous Barack Obama supporters were asked what their candidate stood for, very few were able to say anything other than that Obama wants "change." The "CHANGE we can believe in" slogan sounds great, but without defining the actual "change" in detail, the slogan is meaningless—very Orwellian in the new-speak sense (as is Clinton's "Solutions for America" and McCain's "Now is the time for Action"). Moreover, when asked during a recent presidential debate why he did not separate himself from the very controversial Pastor Wright and convicted terrorist Bill Ayers, Obama's response was that one should be never judged guilty based on association. Immediately after saying this, he then accused Hillary Clinton of guilt by association for being married to

the man who pardoned two members of the terrorist organization, “Weather Underground” (the same group which Ayers belonged to during his bombing frenzy).

Of course, most politicians would prefer the electorate to develop a permanent case of amnesia concerning history. According to former staff member, Dick Morris, President Clinton received during his first run for the oval office substantial donations from at least two Islamic organizations that later were discovered to have direct links to terrorism.

Since Hillary Clinton has taken ownership of experience acquired during the eight years of her husband’s presidency, she has to equally share responsibility in all events rather than just the one’s she prefers. Guilt by association may be uncomfortable for all candidates (including McCain); it is, however, a valid procedure when examining a presidential contender or for that matter, anyone else who hopes to be in a position of responsibility—for example, those who wish to acquire and retain security clearances.

John McCain’s association history has not been pristine either. For starters, he testified on Charles Keating’s behalf. Keating if you remember speculated in highly overvalued real estate from his own American Continental Corp. by illegally transferring money from insured bank funds. This resulted in bringing down Great American Savings Bank and Lincoln Savings, destroying the pensions and savings of many persons to the tune of 300 billion dollars. Keating did eventually wind up behind bars (the case was later overturned in Keating’s favor and he was released on appeal for a new trial—very soon after this, he was sent back to jail after attempting to obtain a passport). Keating was a large contributor to McCain’s senatorial campaign in the early years.

McCain’s authoring of bills (with Senators Kennedy and Feingold) essentially giving amnesty to illegal aliens is somewhat paradoxical. Surely McCain can create and support whatever legislation the electorate will allow him. He can also label himself as he wishes (he more than earned the right to do this after being a long term guest at the Hanoi Hilton). But to call himself a Reagan Republican is quite a stretch, just as much as it is for Barack Obama to call himself a “devoted Christian” and at the same time subscribe to Liberation Theology.

Liberation Theology uses Christian terminology for describing Marxist ideas. It’s definitions of Jesus, Christian, baptism, salvation, the Gospel, sin, good, evil, and so on, are based on Marxist views rather than on traditional Christian teaching. The belief system itself was conceived of by Jesuit priests in Guatemala, Central America, and soon after was enthusiastically embraced by the Sandinistas in Nicaragua. Black Liberation Theology is a variation of this philosophy, primarily based on the writings of James Cone.

When a believer in Liberation Theology discusses a subject, his definitions for commonly used terms are often different than yours. Still, the follower of Liberation Theology does not mention this to you, the “useful idiot” (to use a Marxist phrase). Look at the following example:

Mr. A. always identifies apples as oranges. One day, after eating an apple (remember, an apple in Mr. A’s vocabulary is called an orange), he tells Mr. B., his coworker, that he just ate a great tasting orange. Mr. A. then asks Mr. B. if he would like one. Mr. B. says “I’d love an orange” and a few seconds later he is staring bewilderingly at a apple.

If one does not define terms, nothing but confusion and deception occurs. And oftentimes this is exactly the intent.

Hillary Clinton’s concept of the USA also includes a redefining of terms. Read her book, *It Takes a Village*. In it she is saying in no uncertain terms that it is the government’s responsibility to protect and cuddle everyone, even those not wanting to share in her vision (somewhat similar to Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*)—the best example of this is her proposal for solving the rising cost of healthcare.

True, healthcare costs are out of control and something needs to be done concerning them. Nonetheless, forcing everyone to buy healthcare (and garnishing the wages of those who refuse it) is simply a fascist tactic.

Well, by this time I probably ticked everyone off but I admit that this was not my purpose. What is my intent is to get all of you beyond the background noise and to look at the facts. My hope is that reason rules you rather than emotion.

When I was a kid, I used to watch the take offs of old propeller driven military airplanes flying out of Floyd Bennett Airfield in Brooklyn, NY. I used to have the fantasy of imagining myself as a radio operator on one of these beautiful machines, doing a bombing mission over Nazi occupied Europe. How romantic! How heroic! Then, one day, it suddenly occurred to me that those Nazi bastards had the unpleasant habit of shooting back. My perception was shocked from illusion to reality.

Sadly, many fantasies are not so easily dissolved, especially those based on emotion—in fact, the 20 to 30 second television political commercial is usually much more effective than any other form of persuasion because its designed to create an intense emotional response in its audience. And this is what makes it the medium of choice for transmitting anyone’s point of view—anyone, that is, with enough money to pay for it—making it the greatest propaganda tool in history.

Emotions bypass reason. Emotions can change the way we perceive reality, distorting our cognition of it. The creative use of emotions generated via televised political messages can swing an election. The music, the color scheme, the images chosen, the tone of the speaker's voice, the sentence length, and the complexity of the words used, all create in the viewer—if done correctly—a positive feeling for the candidate and a negative feeling for the opponent. The whole process motivates the heart rather than the brain. It's meant to do so.

All of us have to do our homework. Look at the voting record of candidates and ignore the hype, the commercials, the slogans, and so on. Look at the persons with whom they associate, look at the organizations they belong to, and look at their past behavior—it is a predictor of future action.

Don't be so eager to sign every petition offered to you by some over-the-hill hippie sitting in front of 'Costco'. Most of the persons asking you to sign your name get anywhere from fifty cents to two dollars per signature, depending on the issue. Try an experiment and ask a few of them if they would be doing this if they were not getting paid for it. After you hear every four-letter word in the book being thrown at you, the answer will be obvious concerning their dedication to the issues that they are passionately pushing on you.

Assuming that the petition becomes a ballot proposition, read only the "Proposed Text" in the "Voter Information Pamphlet." Do not be swayed by any proposition title. Most of the time the text has little or nothing to do with it. Leave the "pro" and the "con" in the Voter Information Pamphlet" alone (such as analysis by the League of Women's Voters)—it's Orwellian on both sides of the issue (this includes the summary by the Attorney General as well as the Legislative Analyst's discussion). Study the issue days before you vote by reading only the actual words of the proposed law; and do not be swayed by the commercials—advertisements for ballot propositions are classic examples of mind bending.

A small sampling of examples of what happens when agenda becomes a substitute for fact follows:

A clean air proposition entitled "Save our Planet" which allows more pollutants into the atmosphere than any time previous;

Fees to offset the environmental impact of plastic grocery bags when the fact is that plastic grocery bags take up much less space in landfills than paper grocery bags ever did or ever will (plastic compresses much better than paper and is usually easier to recycle);

Taxes to help minimize the effects of global warming when in fact there is absolutely no valid scientific data to support the theory. Remember, just because some fellow receives the Nobel Peace Prize, doesn't mean that his theories are given a reprieve from the scientific method. One and one is two regardless of how many people believe it to be three. Moreover, considering that one of the 1994 recipients of the prize was the terrorist Yasser Arafat, the award has become a meaningless token, unless of course one has a high regard for mass murderers;

A city council creating a bill to give itself a thirty percent pay raise during a financial crisis and then calling the new legislation, "The Fiscal Responsibility Act;"

A "new and improved" veterans benefit package purposefully designed to give all veterans many less rights and services; and,

An upcoming proposition on the June Third California Primary entitled "Proposition 98: Eminent Domain." In this proposition's proposed "Statement of Purpose" (Section 2), it indicates that the proposed change to California law will limit the unfair practices of government concerning eminent domain. Then in the proposed law's "Effective Date" (Section 6) it adds a few additional words eliminating all rent control in the State of California. *Very Slick!*

It takes some time and some brainpower to decrypt and filter through political noise but it certainly is our responsibility as citizens to know all the facts before making a decision.

One political columnist recently stated that he believes that a fascist style government in the USA is an impossibility simply because the American people would never stand for it. "They love their freedom too much," he said. Hopefully, future events will justify his faith in us and it won't turn out to be just the illusion of an optimistic fool.