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## *The Silent Sentinel* September 2011



### *Our Creed and Purpose*

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be Strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today.



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### The Silent Sentinel via Email

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

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

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

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

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

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

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### *September Meeting*

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at VFW Post 3787, 4370 Twain Ave., San Diego. Our next meeting will be on 13 September, 2011. The post is located one-half block West of Mission Gorge Road, just north of I-8. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. The E-Board meets one hour earlier at 6 p.m.

*Check us out on the World Wide Web*

[www.ussvisandiego.org](http://www.ussvisandiego.org)

### **BINNACLE LIST**

None Reported

## *Submarine Losses in August*

Submitted by C J Glassford



GRUNION (SS 216) - 70 Men on Board:  
Sunk, on 16 Aug 1942, by Gunfire from Torpedoed Japanese Transport, 10 Miles North of Segula, near Kiska Island, Aleutians :  
"ALL HANDS LOST"

S-39 (SS 144) - 46 Men on Board:  
Destroyed, on 16 Aug 1942, after Running Aground on a Reef, South of Rossel Island :  
"NO LOSS OF LIFE"

BASS (SS 164) - 51 Men on Board:  
Fire in After Battery Room, on 17 Aug 1942, Asphyxiates part of the Crew :  
"25 MEN LOST"

POMPANO (SS181) - 76 Men on Board: Sunk, on 29 Aug 1943, Causes unknown, Possibly a Japanese Mine, or combined Air and Surface Attack, off Northeastern Honshu, Japan :  
"ALL HANDS LOST"

FLIER (SS 250) - 80 Men on Board: Sunk, on 13 Aug 1944, by a Japanese Mine, South of Palawan, in the Balabac Strait :  
 " 78 MEN LOST – 8 SURVIVORS "

HARDER (SS 257) - 79 Men on Board: Sunk, on 24 August 1944, by Japanese Coastal Vessel, Off the West Coast of Luzon, Philippines  
 " ALL HANDS LOST "

BULLHEAD (SS 332) - 84 Men on Board: Probably Sunk, on 6 Aug 1945, by Japanese Army Aircraft, off the Bali Coast, in East Java Sea. \* Last Submarine Sunk During World War Two :  
 " ALL HANDS LOST "

COCHINO (SS345) - 68 Men on Board:  
 Foundered and Sank, on 26 Aug 1949, Caused by After Battery Explosion and Fire, During a Severe Storm off the Northern Coast of Norway :  
 " 1 MAN LOST "

TUSK (SS 426) - 81 Men on Board: Six Crew Members washed Overboard, on 26 August 1949, while trying to rescue Crew Members of Fire damaged USS COCHINO (SS 345), in the Norwegian Sea:  
 " SIX MEN LOST "



## **Submarine Veterans Inc., San Diego Base Minutes for 09 August 25, 2011.**

1903 – Meeting called to order by Base Commander Bob Bissonnette.  
 Conducted opening Exercises:  
 Reading of our Creed.  
 Pledge of Allegiance by Jim Bilka.  
 Base Commander led members in Prayer.  
 Conducted tolling of the Boats for the Month of August.

USS S-39 (SS 144) 14 AUGUST 1942 No loss of life.  
 USS PAMPANO (SS181) 29 AUG 1943 ALL HANDS LOST  
 USS FLIER (SS250) 13 AUG 1944 78 LOST 8 SURVIVORS  
 USS HARDER (SS257) 24 AUG 1944 ALL HANDS LOST  
 USS BULLHEAD (SS332) 6 AUG 1945 ALL HANDS LOST  
 USS COCHINO (SS345) 26 AUG 1949 1 LOST -6 LOST TUSK

A moment of Silent Prayer observed for our shipmates.

E-Board members, VIP's and guests honored.  
 Tom Adams stood and reported that his father Mike Adams a WWII submarine veteran has passed away.  
 Secretary reported 30 members and guests on the Sailing List.  
 Treasurer gave report to members.  
 Call for committee reports:  
 Binnacle list: Members on the Binnacle list  
 CJ Glassford, Al Strunk, Bob Medina, Charlie Marin (with son)  
 Base Commanded reported that member John Shepard has passed way.  
 Parade Committee – Jack Kane  
 Poway Heritage Parade – Muster will be at 0800, 10 September 2011, Step off is at 0900 on Pomarado Road. We will be using the float so you can ride if you prefer.  
 Borrego Springs parade, Saturday, October 27, 2011 at 1000.

San Diego Veterans Day parade, 11 November 2011 more info to follow.

Membership Committee – Ron Gorence, no change.

Scholarship Committee - Paul Hitchcock, Scholarship selection is completed and we have three recipients. Thanks to those individuals who helped with the applications.

Storekeeper – We have dolphins both dull and shiny available. We have 2012 Submarine calendars cost 10.00. We also have some 2011 which we will sell at a discount.

Breakfast Committee – Fred Fomby, this last breakfast was very successful we made 352.00 dollars. Rocky also donated a case of steaks which was a great hit for steak and eggs. Our next Breakfast will be October 30, 2011.

1931 – Base Commander adjourned for 50/50 break.

1945 – Base Commander called meeting back to order.

Unfinished Business: The annual Submarine Picnic was very successful, we had 125 people attend. Five bases were represented and many WWII vets attended.

September 24 we are attempting to set up Sub tours. If you would like to attend please send me an e-mail. (RBisson250@aol.com) If you want to go you must show up, we will have a standby list if we get a large group. It looks like we can see a 688 class boat.

A letter of appreciation was sent by the Florida Base for the 382.00 donation our base sent them.

Convention – Aug 15 is late registration and the Hotel is full. You will need other accommodations. Due to a computer problems you will need to contact the convention committee to let them know when you are arriving.

New Business: No new business at this time.

Good of the order: USSVI , Sub History and Sub notes are in the back of the room.

Scamp base is holding a food fest in Escondido. Call the Scamp base for more information.

Eagle Scout program is available and we are looking for individuals to take charge of the program. Let me know if you're interested.

Kap for Kids: We have a new company were the hats are 5 dollars apiece. I would like to get the base members involved with this program.

Member (Dave) asked what is the appropriate parade attire? Dark pants, and a light shirt with vest and hat. Dave also requested that if anyone had a story about life on the boats or any related stories which could be published. he could help work on any manuscripts provided. Dave will then submit the story to Submarine Magazine.

2025 - Meeting adjourned by Base Commander.

SAILING LIST 09 AUGUST 2011

JIM BILKA	BILL EARL	BOB BISSONNETTE
FRED FOMBY	JIM HARER	MANNY BURCIAGA
DAVID BALL	ED FARLEY	MIKE HYMAN
JACK KANE	PAUL HITCHCOCK	TOM ADAMS
TOM POLEN	RUSS FILBECK	ED WELCH
DENNIS MCCREIGHT	DAVID KAUPPINEN	RON GORANCE
DONALD ANDERSEN	JOEL EIKAM	LARRY DORE
PHILLIP RICHESON	JERRY VAUGHN	FRANK MCCOY
BUD ROLLISON	BOB FARRELL	DOC COATES
JIM ROGERS	DENNIS MORTENSEN	
PHIL RICHESON	JACK L. ADDINGTON	



Bob Bissonette reads the scholarship awardees



David Kaupinnen accepts a Subvet Scholarship on behalf of his Granddaughter Rachel Kaupinnen



Phillip Richeson accepts a Subvet Scholarship on behalf of his cousin Heather Hillenbrand



Bob Bissonette accepts a Subvet Scholarship on behalf of his Granddaughter



FOURTH OF JULY IN JULIAN









## SSGNs Finally See Combat

*Strategypage.com, Aug 30, 2011*

August 30, 2011: With nearly all of Libya overrun by rebels, it was possible to get a close look at how well the American Tomahawk TLAM-E did in its first combat use. The missile performed as predicted. Most of these Tomahawks were fired during the initial air attack on March 19th. Moreover, most of the Tomahawks (over a hundred) launched on that day were fired by one ship; the nuclear submarine USS Florida. This was the first time an SSGN saw combat, but not the first time nuclear subs have fired missiles in wartime (U.S. SSNs have fired Tomahawks several times.)

The USS Florida was one of four Ohio class ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) converted to cruise missile submarines (SSGN). The USS Florida and the other three SSGNs entered service over the last five years, and this is the first time one of them fired its missiles in combat. Each of these Ohio class boats now carry 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles, and provides space for 66 commandos (usually SEALs) and their equipment.

The idea of converting ballistic missile subs, that would have to be scrapped to fulfill disarmament agreements, has been bouncing around since the 1990s. After September 11, 2001, the idea got some traction. The navy submariners love this one, because they lost a lot of their reason for being with the end of the Cold War. The United States had built a powerful nuclear submarine force during the Cold War, but with the rapid disappearance of the Soviet navy in the 1990s, there was little reason to keep over a hundred nuclear subs in commission. These boats are

expensive, costing over a billion each to build and over a million dollars a week to operate. The four Ohio class SSBN being converted each have at least twenty years of life left in them.

The idea of a sub, armed with 154 highly accurate cruise missiles, and capable of rapidly traveling under water (ignoring weather, or observation) at a speed of over 1,200 kilometers a day, to a far off hot spot, had great appeal in the post-Cold War world. The ability to carry a large force of commandos as well was also attractive. In one sub you have your choice of hammer or scalpel. More capable cruise missiles are in the works as well. Whether or not this multi-billion dollar investment will pay off remains to be seen, but it certainly worked off Libya.

And then there's the new Tomahawk. The RGM-109E Block IV Surface Ship Vertical Launched Tomahawk Land Attack Missile weighs 1.2 ton, is six meters (18 feet) long, has a range of 1,600 kilometers, getting there at a speed of 600-900 kilometers an hour, flying at an altitude of 17-32 meters (50-100 feet) and propelled by a jet engine generating only 600 pounds of thrust. Accuracy is on a par with JDAM (10 meters/ 31 feet). The Block IV Tomahawk can be reprogrammed in flight to hit another target and carries a vidcam to allow a missile to check on prospective targets.

But there's always something new. Last year, there was a successful test of the new JMEW (Joint Multi-Effects Warhead System) warhead for its Tomahawk Block IV cruise missile. The new, 450 kg (1,000 pound) warhead is designed mainly for penetrating underground bunkers, but it will also provide excellent blast effect for less robust targets. Exact penetration was not revealed. JMEW uses laser terminal guidance, enabling it to hit within a few meters (ten feet) of its aiming point. JMEW can also hit moving targets.

## **Iran Sends Sub, Warship On Red Sea Patrol: Navy**

*Zawya.com, Aug 30, 2011*

TEHRAN, August 30, 2011 (AFP) - Iran has dispatched a submarine and a warship to the Red Sea on a patrol mission, navy commander Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said in a report by state media on Tuesday.

“This flotilla which is comprised of a submarine and a warship will patrol the high seas and display the capabilities of the Islamic republic of Iran,” said Sayyari, quoted by the state television website.

In July, Iran announced intentions to boost its military presence in international waters, with plans to deploy warships in the Atlantic.

Sayyari said the flotilla, in its 15th mission of its kind to be dispatched to the Red Sea, would also focus on “fighting piracy”.

In recent years, local media have reported that Iranian warships accompanied Iranian ships and those of other nations as they made their way across the pirate-infested Gulf of Aden.

In June, Iranian “Kilo” class submarines escorted warships to the Red Sea “to collect data,” in their first mission in distant waters.

Iran’s maritime forces are composed mainly of small units equipped with missiles and operating under the control of the elite Revolutionary Guards in the Gulf.

The ocean-going fleet is also small and under the command of the navy which comprises a half-dozen frigates and destroyers from 1,500 to 2,000 tonnes, and three 3,000-tonne submarines bought from Russia in the 1990s.

In February, Iran moved two warships into the Mediterranean, crossing the Red Sea and the Suez Canal, triggering anger in Israel and prompting the Jewish state to put its navy on alert.

## **Israeli Sends Extra Warships To Patrol Red Sea**

*By Ori Lewis, Reuters, Aug 30, 2011*

JERUSALEM, Aug 30 (Reuters) - Israel said on Tuesday it had sent two extra warships to patrol the Red Sea but it downplayed reports that they were connected to an Egyptian sweep of the Sinai peninsula for militants.

A military official said the deployment was routine but declined to say what operational duties the ships were performing.

“I can confirm that there are two naval craft in the Red Sea. This is not unusual,” the official told Reuters.

Homefront Defence Minister Matan Vilnai said Israeli security forces were on very high alert in the country’s south and that Egyptian troops were acting against gunmen in the Sinai.

“There is a very specific alert that an Islamic Jihad organisation wants to carry out an attack on the Egyptian border and we are taking this alert very seriously. It should be emphasised that the Egyptians are also acting,” he said.

Brent crude prices extended gains after the reports came out, adding around \$1 to trade up \$2.09 at \$114.00 by 1600 GMT.

Militants killed eight Israelis in a cross-border attack on August 18 that Israel said had come from the Gaza Strip through Sinai. Five Egyptian security men were also killed when Israeli forces pursued some of the militants who had fled to Sinai.

Israel then killed 15 Palestinians in a series of retaliatory air strikes on the Gaza Strip, among them the commander of a militant group it blamed for the border assaults.

The two countries subsequently agreed that Egypt should boost its troop presence in the Sinai.

Egypt had long complained that restrictions imposed by its 1979 peace treaty with Israel made it hard to maintain security in the peninsula. The overthrow in February of Egyptian dictator Hosni Mubarak, who maintained a “cold” peace with Israel, has also caused concern in the Jewish state.

Separately, Iranian media reported on Tuesday at Iran was sending a submarine and a warship to the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, areas where it often has a presence, it says, to ward off piracy by armed Somali gangs.

### **SUEZ CANAL ROUTE**

In February, after Mubarak’s downfall, two Iranian warships passed through the Suez Canal for the first time since the 1979 Islamic Revolution en route to Syria, a manoeuvre Israel described as “provocative”.

Last month warships from Iran’s fourth fleet completed a near two-month mission in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, Iranian media reported.

U.S. Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Gary Roughead, said in June he was “not concerned” by reports that Iran has sent submarines to the Red Sea.

Israeli warships are regularly stationed at a naval port in the resort city of Eilat at the northern tip of the Red Sea and patrol the area to the south as part of routine procedure to secure its borders.

The two ships were thought to have passed through the Suez Canal on their way to the Red Sea, although the Israeli military declined to confirm this. The only other way to get to the Red Sea would have been around Africa, a weeks-long voyage.

In June 2009 an Israeli Dolphin class diesel-powered submarine sailed the Suez Canal to the Red Sea as part of a naval drill, defence sources said, describing the unusual manoeuvre as a show of strategic reach in the face of Iran. Each German-made Dolphin has 10 torpedo tubes, four of them widened at Israel's request — to accommodate, some independent analysts believe, nuclear-tipped cruise missiles. But there have been questions about whether these would have the 1,500-km (1,000-mile) range needed to hit Iran from the Mediterranean. (Reporting by Dan Williams in Jerusalem, Simon Falush and Jonathan Saul in London and Robin Pomery in Tehran, Writing by Ori Lewis; Editing by David Stamp)

### **U.S. Sub Force Sharpens Its Sense Of Self**

*By Christopher P. Cavas, Defense News, Aug 29, 2011*

U.S. submarines are among the busiest ships in the Navy. On most days, well over half the fleet's 54 at-tack submarines are underway; on Aug. 22, more than two-thirds were away from home. On any given day at least a quarter of them - sometimes nearly half - are operationally deployed.

That's enough, leaders say, to meet the demand coming from that most critical area, Central Command, but the service has to pick and choose among the remaining requests.

The submarine force is excited that in 2011 - at long last - procurement has reached two Virginia-class nuclear-powered attack sub-marines per year. But with prigg tags of \$2.6 billion and up apiece, the ships might not be immune from cuts as budgets decline.

That counterbalance of increasing roles and missions and declining re-sources, according to the head of the submarine force, makes for "a terrific time to sit down and make sure we understand what our unique responsibilities and roles are - and to sharpen our focus."

Vice Adm. John Richardson, commander of submarine forces, directed an effort to "distill and define our culture" that culminated this summer with the publication of two documents on undersea war fighting.

"That [submarine] commanding officer and his team are going to be operating unsupported for a long period of time,"

Richardson said Aug. 25 to a group of reporters at the Pentagon. "We need to make sure that our commanding officers are ready mentally to do that, to be able to seize every opportunity, to exercise initiative, with very little guidance from behind."

The effort should begin long before the submarine heads to sea, Richardson said.

"You've got to start building those kinds of attributes in the captain and his team in the preparation process." One of the documents, "Undersea Warfighting," is geared to instill a sense of self-sufficiency and take-charge action, and cites instances from conflicts and actions throughout the 100-year history of submarine operations to remind submariners that each crewman has a role.

One passage points out that even a junior helmsman on a submarine, "an E-4 perhaps" - referring to a junior pay grade - should call out if a rudder order might be carried out more efficiently than directed.

"A submarine commanding officer welcomes this kind of initiative because it shows that even one of the most junior Sailors on the ship has his head in the game and is thinking," the document reads. "This is the kind of teamwork that results in the best kind of warship, and it is the hallmark of a good submariner."

The effort is double-pronged, said John Padgett, a retired Navy rear admiral who now heads the Naval Submarine League.

"This coming budget situation is really going to be ugly, and we want to make sure everyone understands the facts," he said Aug. 25 during a phone interview. "These are certain to be difficult times for everyone who has a program of record" But

young submariners also need a sense of their tradition. The new documents, Padgett said, are about "trying to establish some connectivity to these youngsters who come up without much of a sense of history. Here's our history and our legacy"

Reminding Sailors of some of the successes and shortcomings of the past, he said, allows them to "focus on the operational excellence needed today to make sure the execution of the plans is done flawlessly." Richardson, speaking to Defense News, noted that recent U.S. sub-marine operations off Libya "high-light the value of a multi-mission plat-form like an SSN [attack submarine] or and SSGN [guided-missile sub-marine]."

He referred specifically to the Florida, an SSGN that was approaching the end of an around-the world deployment

"Here was a submarine that last touched the continental United States 15 months prior to that mission coming up," he said of the Libyan operations, which began March 19. "They were literally on their way home for their next maintenance period. It was certainly a stressing scenario."

Navy officials have said that the Florida, carrying large numbers of missiles, launched more than half of the Tomahawk cruise missiles fired by U.S. submarines and destroyers at targets in Libya. Officials have not cited specific numbers, but one unofficial source claimed the Florida alone launched about 130 missiles. Other missiles were launched from the attack submarines Providence and Scranton. At least one of the SSNs moved in close to shore, the unofficial source said, to perform strike damage assessment while submerged.

Richardson, citing classification concerns, declined to cite specifics when talking about the Libyan operations. "There were other things that Florida and the other submarines involved in Libya did, beyond just strike, to exercise this multi-mission capability. And there were some things we were fully ready to do that ended up not being executed."

Richardson also noted that the state of anti-submarine warfare (ASW) in the U.S. Navy is improving. "I'm seeing great signs of improvement in how we optimize our different platforms," he said. "I think the trends are in a great direction. How we train and certify our ASW teams has come a long way."

The ASW game is changing, he said. "Now we've got all sorts of unmanned sensors in the game. Remote fixed sensors coming down, maybe deployable sensors. It's sort of going to be ASW on steroids almost."

The proliferation of underwater sensors and platforms is affecting command-and-control concepts as well, he said. "There are a lot of people putting things in the water these days," Richardson said. "How do you deconflict those? How do you optimize their capabilities?"

Richardson began briefing submarine force leaders on the new documents in mid-July. Padgett was to head to Hawaii in late August to begin nearly two months of visits to Submarine League chapters around the country to brief members.

The new war-fighting documents are available online at [www.sublant.navy.mil](http://www.sublant.navy.mil).

### **Iran Unveils New Cruise Missiles**

*thelinkpaper.ca, Aug 28, 2011*

DUBAI – Iran unveiled a new cruise missile which it said has the capability to strike at warships at a range of 200 km, including US bases in the Persian Gulf region. The missile designed for sea targets was put on display at a 'defence marine show' inaugurated by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Iranian TV reported.

The missile called "Qader" (Able) is built indigenously by Iranian scientists and has a high destructive ability against coastal targets and warships, the state run TV said.

It said that Ahmadinejad also made public a new torpedo system called "Valfair", fired from submarine. Both the weapon systems were tested successfully.

Iran now claims, it has an array of short and medium range ballistic missile capable of reaching targets at almost every end of the strategic Persian Gulf, including US bases of the region.

Cruising at a low height with high precision in acquiring its targets are among other features of the relatively lightweight Qader missile, it said.

Iran's Defence Ministry manufactured Bonyan 1 marine engine to provide the country's naval forces with the strategic product.

The torpedo is one of the most complicated marine weapons, which plays a key role in promoting Iran's naval capabilities and the efficiency of vessels and submarines.

In January, Iran's Defence Ministry delivered new cruise missile systems to the Navy, which are capable of spotting and destroying various targets at sea.

### **China's About To Outfit Its Subs With Controversial "First-Strike" Nuclear Warheads**

*By Robert Johnson, Business Insider, Aug 27, 2011*

While adding to its stockpile of almost 200 nuclear warheads, China is on the verge of arming itself with a new highly effective, multi-stage nuclear weapon.

The Washington Times devoted some attention to the new Pentagon report on China's military strategy and found the CCP is using this third missile to compliment its medium and long-range nukes.

This new armament is an intercontinental ballistic missile equipped with a multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle (MIRV).

Put simply, this means the Chinese are creating a "first-strike" warhead that was hotly contested for its destabilizing effects during the Cold War and could increase their nuclear stockpile exponentially.

The Soviets wanted to ban MIRVs completely as early as the late 1960s.

MIRVs are mobile, can be put inside submarines and carry multiple warheads, capable of striking several targets, or just one target far more effectively than traditional missiles.

The Russians, who already admitted to helping China's fighter jet program, have highly advanced MIRV technology in their RSM-56 Bulava submarine missile which just went into serial production.

China's new warhead will compliment its new Jin-Class ballistic missile submarine the Pentagon says "appears ready" to enter the CCP fleet.

In addition to sending MIRVs out with its submarines China is also storing its warheads in underground facilities connected by 3,000 miles of "obscure tunnel network[s]".

Richard Fisher, of the International Assessment and Strategy Center told the Times, "Taken together, a well-protected, growing ICBM force that will soon have active defenses should be of great concern to the United States,"

## **Pentagon Worried Over Chinese Military's Increasing Capabilities**

*[After 10 years of reporting in this newsletter (as well as in the American Submariner Magazine) about China's military buildup—all information being obtained from US Navy information sources that are in the public domain—it's nice to see that the Pentagon is now, all of a sudden, becoming worried after reading it's own intelligence reports. Better late than never. Silent Sentinel Editor: Mike]*

*Stars and Stripes, August 24*

WASHINGTON — China is steadily continuing a secretive and potentially destabilizing military buildup that would give the People's Liberation Army a modernized regional armed force by the end of the decade. But the PLA will have limited ability to reach the United States for years to come, according the Pentagon's annual China power report to Congress, released Wednesday.

The Pentagon estimates China's total military spending at \$160 billion in 2010, more than Beijing's stated military budget of \$92 billion and a 12 percent spending increase over the previous year.

With Taiwan its chief concern, Beijing's spending on "anti-access and area denial" weaponry designed to defend its claimed air and sea territory is tilting the balance of power toward the mainland. The Pentagon now feels Chinese leaders are worried about starting an arms race among its neighbors in the region.

Defense Department officials have said for months they believe China's desire to modernize and increase its regional military capabilities is understandable given the rising power's rapidly expanding global economic interests.

But Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen has said that some weaponry seems to push Chinese capabilities beyond stated limited goals of its government, which must reveal more about how much it spends on its military, what it buys, and why.

"The United States welcomes a strong, prosperous and successful China," the Pentagon report says, "that reinforces international rules and norms and enhances security and peace both regionally and globally."

But 2010 was marred by a months-long relations freeze from Beijing in retaliation for a \$6 billion U.S. arms sale to Taiwan, the continuation of a pattern former Defense Secretary Robert Gates sought to break. The thaw began when Gates and Mullen visited China this year, trips bolstered by lower-level military engagements discussing defense policy, maritime security and other sensitive security issues.

In recent weeks, global attention turned to China's sea trials of its first aircraft carrier, a remodeled Russian ship. Schiffer said the ship does not yet have aircraft, and China is only land-training future carrier pilots thus far, so its significance is unknown.

"Whether or not this proves to be a net-plus for the region or for the globe, or proves to be something that has destabilizing effects and raises blood pressure in various regional capitals, I think, remains to be seen," Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Michael Schiffer said in a briefing.

China likely will begin building its own aircraft carrier this year, to be operational after 2015. Several more Chinese carriers and support ships are expected in the next 10 years. But it will take years for Chinese pilots to reach a "minimal level of combat capability" from a carrier.

In the last decade, Chinese naval ships have acquired advanced air defenses that allow them to operate farther out to sea, away from land-based defenses, the Pentagon said. They are developing a new anti-ship ballistic missile that can attack aircraft carriers beyond 1,500 kilometers, and China already has deployed roughly 60 catamaran-hulled littoral ships.

A new naval base on Hainan Island is now complete and is big enough to port aircraft carriers and ballistic missile submarines accessible via tunnels beyond detection. Additionally, its navy continues building a new class of submarine and five newer versions of current attack submarines in development would have better technology to run silent. But the report says

China's submarines have limited ability to communicate while at sea and the navy has no experience conducting submarine patrols with live nuclear warheads.

There also are still roughly 1,200 short-range ballistic missiles opposite Taiwan, of increasing and improved varieties.

The Pentagon called China's J-20 a "stealth fighter" – previously officials questioned its stealth capability – but predicted the aircraft would not be operational until after 2018 and requires further progress on its engine.

The Pentagon also said China was the source of U.S. computer network attacks many times in 2010, but gave no details. Pentagon officials rarely names China as the culprit behind cyber attacks.

Thirty percent of China's foreign arms sales went to the Middle East and North Africa, with Pakistan the chief customer for conventional weapons.

### **China's New Aircraft Carrier: How Does It Impact Upon India?**

*Defence Professionals, August 24*

Earlier this month, the PLA Navy (PLAN) began the sea trials of its first aircraft carrier, the refurbished Varyag. Senior Colonel Li Xiaoyan, a member of China's first warship academy class in 1987, is set to command the ship while three other officers have been appointed as Deputy Captains. Besides there are seven other senior officers who have reportedly undergone training at the Guangzhou Naval Academy since 2008 and dispatched to Varyag in December 2010. Li has been chosen as the commander given that he is one of the first who could both pilot aircraft and sail warships.

While details are still awaited, a picture available of the aircraft carrier also does not reveal much. However, it seems in line with what Can Weidong of the PLA Navy's Academic Research Institute had said, that it will be a "conventionally powered medium-sized carrier that would be equipped with Chinese engines, aircraft, radar and other hardware."

What is likely to be the utility of aircraft carrier to China? Does it enhance Chinese security significantly? And, how does the Varyag impact upon Indian interests or the larger Asian security framework?

Varyag, a Soviet-era carrier not very old, relative to other carriers, was bought from Ukraine in 1998 and underwent serious rework and refitting at a shipyard in Dalian in Liaoning Province. While there was no doubt that China will have its own aircraft carrier, the world has gone wrong in their assessments as far as the timeline was concerned. Many of the western assessments had calculated that Beijing will have its first carrier by 2012 or so. However, today the aircraft carrier is only undergoing initial sea trials, possibly checking the engines (it is not clear yet whether it uses the gas turbine, steam turbine or marine diesel engine. China does not yet have indigenous gas or steam turbine production capabilities and it is not believed to have procured these engines from foreign sources.), navigation equipment, electronics fire control and maintenance operations. But they are a long way away from carrying fighter jets. It is no surprise because no aircraft carrier carries planes on such early trials. It will be years before they have a carrier battle group comprising a consolidated group of frigates, destroyers, submarines and other accessories.

What does an aircraft carrier mean for China? Aircraft carriers have significant utility in enforcing sea control and sea denial strategies given the importance of air power superiority in combat, especially for power projection purposes. Having an aircraft carrier in its armoury does not mean much as yet and China is years away from being capable of even effective sea denial strategy in the East Asian region. However, as a rising power, China will possess such capabilities and more in the future. If there are no serious hitches, the PLAN plans to induct the carrier into service by October 2012, though this sounds ambitious.

China's plans to induct an aircraft carrier is in perfect alignment with the assertive naval posturing that it has been displaying vis a vis its neighbours in the recent years - be it the East China Sea or the South China Sea. In fact, aircraft carrier would provide Beijing with what it apparently sees as the coercive means for enforcing its claims in these two seas. Reportedly, a Chinese defence ministry-run website made it clear to say that the carrier should handle territorial disputes as well. A PLA Daily article too noted that in a theatre like the South China Sea, the strategic manoeuvre that is possible with a carrier would provide them the ability to apply significant air-to-ground firepower during military missions, while not being affected by geographical restrictions. They in fact see the aircraft carrier as a "mobile maritime airport." Chinese strategists believe that such kind of "deterrent" abilities would be important in defending the high seas as well as the coastal waters.

The timing is curious too. They flight-tested their stealth fighter during the US Defence Secretary's visit; and this time they decided to conduct the aircraft carrier sea trials around the same time as US Vice President Joe Biden's visit. It is unclear if this is a coincidence or a signal to the US.

What does the Chinese aircraft carrier mean for India and other neighbours? In the first place, it would induce caution in other maritime powers in the region, particularly India, US and Japan. China's submarine force already has produced this effect on these powers; the aircraft carrier would compound it.



As for the Southeast Asian countries, the Chinese aircraft carrier would be a display of power and prestige. In fact, a PLA Daily article said that the aircraft carrier has far greater political significance than military significance. This is particularly important given that until a few years back, the PLAN was the weakest wing of the Chinese military. But this has changed now with greater attention in favour of the naval and air wing of the military. China believes that aircraft carriers are important if they want to be able to control the air and have effective presence in areas that may be away from its territorial limits. Display of power and prestige is important both for the internal and external audiences. Analysts have talked about China's ability to conduct anti-submarine warfare against Indian nuclear submarines although it is too early to judge this yet. However, China's ability for air and sea power projection in its neighbourhood is significant and growing, and the aircraft carrier is another indicator. The carrier would provide China the ability to project its power even farther. China has already begun anti-piracy operations off the waters of Somalia and refuelling in the Karachi port. An aircraft carrier would provide them far greater options in the near future.

### **Navy Studies Acquisition Of 1st Sub**

*Manila Standard Today, August 23*

PRESIDENT Benigno Aquino III said Tuesday the Navy was studying to acquire its first submarine as part of a defense buildup after he ordered the deployment of the country's fastest warship to secure areas with energy service contracts.

The 378-foot Hamilton-Class cutter BRP Gregorio del Pilar will patrol the country's exclusive economic zone, including the Reed Bank where Chinese incursions have triggered diplomatic protests from Manila.

The combat-ready cutter can also be used for search and rescue missions as well as to interdict ships that try to enter the country.

Carrying up to 180 crew members, the cutter runs at 26 knots, making it the fastest in the fleet.

The cutter, classified as a surface combat ship, is equipped with a helicopter flight deck, a retractable hangar, and other facilities to support air operations.

Mr. Aquino said the 3,390-ton warship, a decommissioned US Coast Guard vessel acquired through the United States' Foreign Sales Military Program, would "infuse fresh strength and vigor to the Armed Forces."

"This modern ship is a symbol of our readiness to take care, guard and, if needed, defend the interest and welfare of our nation," Mr. Aquino said at a ceremony accompanied by US Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr.

Mr. Aquino said the move to acquire a submarine would have to be studied carefully, as he didn't want to buy cheap vessels that would cost a lot to refurbish to suit local sea conditions.

Equipped with sensors and radar, submarines can monitor movement on the surface and even identify nearby ships using propeller signatures.

The Navy is reportedly planning to buy its first submarine by 2020.

Also this week, Vietnam received a warship to beef up its navy amid tensions with China over the Spratly Islands.

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## Before We Gut The Navy, Think

*Lexington Institute Early Warning Blog, July 21*

Proposals for deep cuts in military forces are swirling through Washington. Among the ideas being put forward just for the Sea Services are to reduce the number of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers from 11 to 9 and delay the start of the next Ford class aircraft carrier, cancel the next generation ballistic missile submarines, reduce the planned production rate for nuclear attack submarines from two to one, eliminate a large portion of the amphibious warfare fleet and cancel both the Navy and Marine Corps variants of the advanced, stealthy F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

Such proposals are ill-advised from a strategic, operational and even industrial base perspective. The world's oceans are once again becoming a contested domain which ought to concern Americans since we are a trading nation and dependent on the movement of materials and goods by sea. China, which is deploying a ship-hunting ballistic missile, has also sent its first aircraft carrier to sea. Beijing is seeking control over the South China Sea despite equally valid claims from several other Asian countries. Iran, whose naval operations were once restricted to the Persian Gulf, has recently been seeking to significantly extend its naval reach. The regime in Teheran sent a naval squadron through the Suez Canal. An Iranian admiral recently declared that it is his country's intentions to deploy warships as far away as the Atlantic Ocean. Russia is acquiring four Mistral amphibious warfare vessels from France and has planted a titanium flag at the bottom of the Arctic Ocean, asserting a claim over contested territory.

Operationally, naval forces provide flexibility, continuous forward presence and sheer military power. Inherent in the way we have designed and built our

ships and structured naval forces is the ability to conduct a wide range of missions from humanitarian assistance and counter piracy to major combat operations. The reality is that virtually all U.S. military operations are away games. Regardless of how the U.S. seeks to engage, influence or fight states and non-state actors alike it must first get there and protect its lines of communication and resupply from the United States. The most straightforward and cost-effective way to bring power to bear across vast oceans is with naval forces. Reducing naval forces means a disproportionate loss of U.S. influence, combat power and security.

Naval forces also provide tremendous inherent operational flexibility. Due to their large volumes, U.S. aircraft carriers, large deck amphibs, SSGNs and cruisers allow commanders to employ them in novel ways, carry unusual cargoes and support a wide range of operations. This can include deployment of Army units and helicopters, the movement of humanitarian relief supplies and the operation of SOF. With the STOVL variant of the JSF, the F-35B, the Navy will double the number of ships that can deploy advanced combat aircraft. In the aftermath of the Japanese tsunami the aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) went from conducting combat training to providing emergency assistance in the blink of an eye. No other navy or branch of the U.S. military could have done this.

Proposals to delay ships and reduce build rates will have significant negative consequences on the entire shipbuilding industry. This is particularly true for the nuclear ship construction. Delay the next aircraft carrier and not only will its price rise but so too will the price of nuclear attack submarines and potentially the next generation ballistic missile submarine. Like proposals to eliminate the Jones Act, which requires that ships carrying cargo between U.S. ports be built in U.S. shipyards, cutting back on planned construction rates for nuclear-powered naval vessels actually could result in greater expenditures in the long-run. It is clear that those making such proposals have no clue about the integrated nature of the naval construction industry.

Finally, the idea of foregoing the next generation of ballistic submarines is the height of silliness. The SSBN force is the truly secure retaliatory portion of the current nuclear triad. It provides two-thirds of the available warheads under the New START Treaty. The existing Ohio class boats will need to be retired starting around 2020. There is no alternative to building a new class of SSBNs, at least until we reach the nirvana of a verifiable global nuclear disarmament regime.

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## Foundry Helps Explore Mystery Of H.L. Hunley

*The Leaf Chronicle, September 5*

Clarksville Foundry, a company whose origins date to the decade preceding the Civil War, participated in a National Geographic Channel project exploring the mystery of the sinking of the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley.

Clarksville Foundry analyzed a piece of period iron from the remains of the Hunley to duplicate as closely as possible the chemical composition in the components. The foundry then created molds and cast a reproduction of a portion of the conning tower. The molding and casting processes, undertaken in January 2010, were recorded for the two-hour special, "Secret Weapon of the Confederacy," premiering on Sept. 15, at 8 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel.

According to the show's synopsis, "It was the first submarine ever to sink an enemy ship, but after only one successful mission the H.L. Hunley vanished with its crew and lay hidden for more than a century. The circumstances surrounding the disappearance of the Confederacy's secret weapon have remained an enduring mystery since the Civil War era, but now NGC has uncovered what may have brought it down."

Clarksville Foundry is one of the oldest operating foundries in America and one of Tennessee's oldest manufacturing companies. Organized in 1847 by H.P. Dorris as the first foundry in Montgomery County, the foundry produced munitions for the Confederacy in 1861.

For the past 100 years, the foundry has been operated by members of the Foust family. Current president and CEO Charlie Foust is the third generation of his family to head the operation. Recently, Foust cast a reproduction of an 1847 six-pounder cannon using period drawings. The cannon was presented to the community as a gift to commemorate the Civil War Sesquicentennial and is at Fort Defiance Civil War Park.

The submarine H.L. Hunley was built in Mobile, Ala., and launched in July 1863. In August 1863, it was shipped by rail to Charleston, S.C. The Hunley became the world's first submarine to sink a ship in wartime when it attacked and sank the USS Housatonic in Charleston Harbor on Feb. 17, 1864. After firing its torpedo, the Hunley signaled the Confederate battery it was returning to base but mysteriously disappeared before reaching the destination.

The wrecked submarine, with the remains of its crew still at their stations, was discovered in 1995 by a dive team financed by author Clive Cussler. In August 2000, the Hunley was raised from the wreck site and shipped to Charleston for conservation. On April 17, 2004, the remains of Lieutenant George E. Dixon and the seven volunteer crewmembers of the Hunley were interred with full military honors in Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston in what has been called the "Last Confederate Funeral."

In an attempt to unravel the mystery of what happened to the Hunley, a part of the submarine was reproduced and fired upon using period weapons to determine if the shots could have caused the damage seen on the wreckage. For more information on "Secret Weapon of the Confederacy," visit [www.natgeotv.com](http://www.natgeotv.com).

## Chilean Stealth Sub Visiting San Diego

*San Diego Reader, September 2*

The Chilean navy's Carrera, a diesel-electric submarine, has arrived for a training mission with the 3rd Fleet in San Diego, Navy Times reports.

The latest generation of diesel-electric subs, with their unusual stealthiness and relatively low price have become troublesome for U.S. defense planners. As smaller countries acquire more of them, safe access for U.S. ships to world coastal areas and the high seas could be jeopardized, the Pentagon argues.

"Once they have powered up their batteries, the submarines can sail to the bottom of coastal waters and remain undetected for days," says an account in National Defense Magazine.

"Though they can't travel long distances or sail very quickly, advancements in technologies, such as air-independent propulsion and fuel cells, have allowed diesel submarines to extend their operational ranges underwater.

"But perhaps their best selling point is their relatively inexpensive price tags. The Russians have sold diesel submarines for as little as \$200 million and the French have exported their Scorpene submarines for \$300 million."

"China's new Song-class diesel submarines have tracked U.S. Navy ships operating in the seas near Japan and Taiwan. Last November, after China denied the USS Kitty Hawk's port call in Hong Kong at the last minute, a Chinese submarine shadowed the carrier as it entered the Taiwan Straits on its return voyage to Yokosuka, Japan.

"In the late fall of 2006, a Song-class submarine surfaced within torpedo range of the Kitty Hawk\* off the coast of Okinawa, Japan." According to the account in Navy Times, the current San Diego visit will allow the U.S. to "train its submarine crews as well as surface ships, patrol squadrons and other units to hunt and operate with the foreign subs."

## All Canadian Submarines Now Out Of Commission

*The Montreal Gazette, September 5*

OTTAWA - The navy's last operational submarine is now sidelined until 2016, leaving the service without an underwater capability and potentially throwing into question the future of the submarine fleet.



The submarine program, which has already cost around \$900 million, has been plagued with various maintenance issues that have prevented the boats from being available for operations on a regular basis.

A media report in July noted that one of the subs, HMCS Windsor, arrived in Canada in the fall of 2001 but since then it has operated at sea for just 332 days.

HMCS Corner Brook, damaged when it hit the ocean floor during a training accident in June on the West Coast, is now dockside. It will be repaired and overhauled during a planned maintenance period now underway.

But it is not scheduled to return to sea until 2016, the navy confirmed in an email to the Ottawa Citizen.

HMCS Chicoutimi, damaged by a fire in 2004 that killed one officer, still remains sidelined. That leaves HMCS Windsor and HMCS Victoria, which are also not available for duty at sea.

“The navy is focused on HMCS Victoria and HMCS Windsor and returning both to sea in early 2012,” stated navy spokesman Lt.-Cmdr. Brian Owens in an email. “Trials are already underway with Victoria in anticipation to her returning to sea.”

He noted that plans call for Victoria to do a test dive in the Esquimalt harbour on Vancouver Island sometime this month as part of a plan “to verify the submarine’s watertight integrity, and the functionality of other key systems.”

But defence analyst Martin Shadwick said the latest news on the four submarines is yet another blow to the program.

“All the arguments the navy made for having submarines 10 or 15 years ago are still fundamentally valid, but they haven’t been actually able to provide the politicians with specific concrete examples because the subs are not available all that much,” explained Shadwick, a York University professor. “That makes the subs a lot more vulnerable to budget cutters in the department and outside of it.”

He said the future survival of the submarine force could be put in jeopardy if the problems continue.

Canada purchased the subs second-hand from Britain and took delivery of the boats between 2000 and 2004. The navy said it did a thorough examination of the vessels to ensure they meet Canadian needs, but problems with the Victoria-class subs started materializing almost immediately.

High-pressure welds had to be replaced and cracks were found in some of the valves on the four subs. Steel piping also needed to be replaced as the submarines were put into storage in Britain with water in their fuel tanks. HMCS Victoria also underwent repairs after a dent was discovered in her hull.

In addition, there have been delays in installing Canadian equipment, such as the weapons fire control and communications gear. The subs are still not capable of firing Canadian torpedoes.

“The introduction of the Victoria Class has been fraught with many issues and faced a number of setbacks,” a May 2009 briefing note produced by the navy acknowledged. The Ottawa Citizen obtained that document through the access to Information law.

In July, media reports citing other navy documents noted the subs are also restricted in the depth they can dive because of rust problems.

In June, two sailors were injured when Corner Brook hit bottom near Nootka Sound, off the west coast of Vancouver Island. The boat was conducting submerged manoeuvres during advanced submarine officer training.

Owens said navy divers did an initial “in-water” damage assessment of Corner Brook. They found there was damage to the fibreglass bow dome, which Owens noted could mean that there may be damage to the sonar equipment it contains. There was also minor leakage in a forward ballast tank.

“The exact scope of the damage, and subsequent repair estimate, can only be derived after a more thorough assessment with the submarine docked and the development of complete repair specifications,” he added.

The cost of repairs is not known at this time.

HMCS Corner Brook is alongside the dock at Esquimalt and is being used as a training platform for submariners.

It is now undergoing an already scheduled maintenance regime in which minimal work is done, such as replacing certain components and doing an engineering survey of what needs to be done during a much more elaborate overhaul called the Extended Docking Work Period or EDWP.

The submarine will not go to sea again until after the EDWP.

Owens said Corner Brook’s EDWP is scheduled to be complete in 2015-16, making the vessel available for testing, trials and personnel training in 2016.

## **Submarine Commanders Conference**

*Youtube*

Link to video: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4cXgfuCiPQ&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4cXgfuCiPQ&feature=player_embedded)

NEWS-01: Military Retiree Pay Dates to Change  
Submitted by: James A Fox on 9/6/2011

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Military Retiree Pay Dates to Change  
Defense Finance and Accounting Service

CLEVELAND, Sept. 6, 2011 - Paydays for military retirees and those who receive portions of retired pay are changing for the months of September and December, as the Defense Finance and Accounting Service changes its pay schedule to comply with the 2011 National Defense Authorization Act.

The 2011 NDAA requires military retiree pay to be processed on the first day of the month. When that day falls on a weekend or national holiday, the pay date is moved to the previous business day.

This year payments normally scheduled for Oct. 3, 2011 will be issued on Sept. 30, 2011 and payments normally scheduled for Jan. 3, 2012, will be issued on Dec. 30, 2011. For the calendar year 2011, this means military retirees will receive 13 rather than the normal 12 payments.

The 13th payday on Dec. 30 falls within the 2011 tax year, which could affect the tax liability of some retirees and those who receive portions of their retired pay. Customers should speak with a tax advisor, the Internal Revenue Service or their state tax authority to determine if their tax withholding will satisfy federal and state income taxes when they file returns next year. DFAS cannot provide tax advice.

For tax year 2012 and beyond, retirees will receive their normal 12 payments.

This change affects regular retired pay, Concurrent retirement and disability pay and combat related special compensation. The new rule also applies to retiree allotments, garnishments and court-ordered former spouse and child support payments. It does not affect annuity payments.

If retirees need to make changes to their federal or state tax withholding, the quickest and most secure way to do so is through myPay. Available 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week, myPay enables eligible users around the world to make routine changes to their pay information, including tax withholding, that become effective within days.

Customers who cannot access myPay can change federal withholding amounts by completing a new IRS Form W-4 or W-4P, or change state withholding amounts using a DD 2866. These forms can be found on the DFAS web site, [www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/forms.html](http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/forms.html), and should be mailed or faxed to the below address once completed:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
U.S. Military Retired Pay  
P.O. Box 7130  
London, KY 40742-7130  
Fax: 800-469-6559

It may take up to 30 days for changes to be made when mailing in a paper form.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service provides responsive, professional finance and accounting services to the men and women who defend America. DFAS pays about 6.4 million people and in FY 2010 made 8.1 million travel payments, paid 11.4 million commercial invoices, made \$578 billion in disbursements to pay recipients, and managed \$487.9 billion in military retirement and health benefits funds.

NEWS-01: District Commanders 2011-2013  
Submitted by: T. Michael Bircumshaw on 9/1/2011

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Shipmates,

It gives me great pleasure to announce the USSVI District Commanders for the years 2011-2013. These are the shipmates who have stepped up to provide the leadership, training, and representation of the 163 Bases currently

chartered within USSVI. They are the GO-TO man in the middle and should know the answers or absolutely know where or who has the answers about USSVI and are dedicated to seeing that those asking questions get the right answers every time. These are shipmates who carry a primary duty of ensuring that communications between the Bases and your Regional Director are in place and keeping everyone in that loop informed of what is going on in USSVI. I congratulate all of the continuing and newly elected District Commanders and look forward to being of any assistance possible for the coming year.

Best,  
Michael

CENTRAL REGION: CD1 Ray Wewers CD2 Victor Vanhorn  
CD3 David Farran CD4 Wyvel "Tom" Williams  
SOUTH EASTERN REGION: ESD1 Dick Kanning ESD2 Paul Viering ESD3 Jim  
Morehouse ESD4 William (Doc) Sweany ESD5 John Troia  
NORTH EASTERN REGION: ENRD 1 Thomas Shannon  
ENRD 2 Leslie P Altschuler ENRD 3 Hubert C. Dietrich  
ENRD 4 Michael Naughton ENRD 5 James Irvin  
WESTERN REGION: WD1 Jack Messersmith WD2 Dave Linker  
WD3 Ron Star WD4 John Mansfield WD5 George Petershagen  
WD6 Len Heiselt

#### USSVI By-Laws

##### Section 6: BIENNIAL ELECTION FOR DISTRICT COMMANDERS

- A. The appropriate Regional Director shall conduct the District Elections every two years during the odd numbered years.
- B. The District Commanders shall be elected by a majority vote, or where appropriate, the plurality vote shall rule, of the Base Commanders in good standing within the district; the call for candidates to begin on March 1st and the results to be announced on September 1st of the election year. The Region Director will set the start and close date for the election, and each Base Commander must have at least days to cast his written or electronic ballot.

##### Section 7. DISTRICT COMMANDERS:

- The District Commander is directly responsible to the Region Director for the conduct of organizational business within his district.  
The duties of the District Commanders shall include but not be limited to:
- a. Serve as non voting members of the Board of Directors
  - b. Assist the Base Commanders within their respective districts in the performance of their duties, to include providing assistance as required to insure the proper operation of base meetings and events, recruiting and retention.
  - c. Appoint all District committees, committee chairman and appointed officers as required to conduct District business.
  - d. Represent his respective District at official functions.
  - e. Assist the Region Director with the oversight of the performance of all Base Commanders within his district; the performance guidelines having been established by the Region Director.
  - f. Approve Base Constitution and Bylaws, insuring compliance with National and State laws regulating the operation of the organization within his district (i.e. chartering, maintaining non-profit status, etc.)
  - g. Actively promote the establishment of new bases with the assistance of the New Base Development Committee (NBDC), including, with the assistance of the NBDC sending in to the Regional Director and NJVC a report on the well being of any new base six months after it has been formed.
  - h. In coordination with his Region Director, may perform as liaison with other veteran organizations including Submarine Veterans of World War II (SVWWII) in their respective areas.

- i. Annually prepare a written report on the 'state of his district' to be given to his Regional Director with copies for publication in each of the District's Base Newsletters.
- j. If selected, may serve as a member of the New Base Development Committee.
- k. Prepare a "Turn Over" folder for his relief, containing all information and correspondence relative to his office.
- l. Require the District Commander to create a news letter for the Base Commanders within his district on a quarterly basis. (B4-10)

Fraternally.  
Michael

T Michael Bircumshaw  
National Commander 2010-2012

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NEWS-01: The Fate of Museum Ships During a Recession

Submitted by: Pat Householder on 8/30/2011

Many of the aging warships-turned-museums around the country are facing fiscal uncertainty while in dire need of repairs. Tight government budgets and the fact that people may no longer be able to afford to donate to the museums has compounded the the problem

Read more:  
<http://defensetech.org/2011/08/29/the-fate-of-museum-ships-during-a-recession/>

=====  
NEWS-01: Searching for a National Storekeeper  
Submitted by: T. Michael Bircumshaw on 8/11/2011

Shipmates,  
It is approaching the time when certain hard decisions must be made concerning the NSK and the store that we have been running. Huey is resigning once again and so far none of the prospective applicants for the position have met the criteria or made it happen. The preference is for the NSK to be located in the Central Region to help manage the costs of shipping to the national conventions, however, we have shipmates who are willing to transport goods in their RVs or their trucks and I am thinking that location may be less negative than was previously thought..  
Please contact me at NC@USSVI.org if you are interested and let's see what we can do to keep the store open.  
Best,  
Michael



# Digitizing Our U.S. Submarine WWII War Patrol Reports

## Forward:

"This effort by EMC (SS) John Clear USN (Ret) is truly remarkable. For over 40 years, although declassified, the remarkable exploits of the U. S. Submarine Force during WWII sat on microfilm in a few museums and files, essentially untouched. His initiative revealed factual accounts of each U. S. submarine war patrol during WWII. In my view, that delay in publication was a travesty which should not have occurred for our WWII submarine veterans.

The Cold War is over. It should not take four decades before the importance of U. S. Submarine efforts during that period are made public."

Very Respectfully, VADM Roger F. Bacon, USN (Ret)

## Digitizing Our U.S. Submarine WWII War Patrol Reports

I first became acquainted with the WWII U.S. Submarine War Patrol Reports microfilm collection at the Naval Undersea Museum, Keyport, WA in the summer of 2006, while volunteering as a docent at the museum. This little known and very infrequently used collection is housed within the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, non-lending library of this outstanding facility which is one of only a small hand full in our nation where these reports can be viewed.

Being a retired SubLant and SubPac Chief, whose naval career had included tours of duty on three of these WWII veteran submarines, I was interested in their war time history and achievements. With help from the museum's staff (in particular Jennifer Heinzelman, Collections Manager), I soon became well versed with the library's microfilm reader as to how to set-up and peruse the film rolls of the 255 U.S. submarine's war patrol records. These numerous microfilm rolls are housed in large collection drawers there within the library.

What immediately struck me in reading these histories from the microfilm copies of the original paper reports was the succinct manner in which these histories had been recorded at the time of and where these events occurred. Some of these reports were almost "casual" in their presentation of these awesome events. As an example: one of my previous tours of duty was on the USS Sealion SS-315 which just happened to be the only submarine in history to sink an enemy battleship in wartime. To read the pertinent pages from within this particular report of this patrol one would think that this type of occurrence was rather commonplace and not of such monumental importance as it had been. Well known submarines and individual heroes of these times seem to be "alive" in their patrol report depictions. The officers making the input and the yeomen that typed up these multi-copy reports on their old Underwood typewriters did so with an almost clinical detachment, ultimately providing an insight as no other form of written historical log or book has given us.

Again with the aid of the staff I was able to print out some of these pages but it was a very slow and cumbersome chore. It wasn't until I was able to reconnect the microfilm reader's output directly to a computer and hence save pages in a digital format that this effort began to come together and make sense. From my research I had found that nearly half of these microfilmed reports were photographed in 16mm and the rest in 35mm, in that, again, I found another problem. The 16 mm pages were an easy and direct "save to" on the p.c., but the 35mm had to be worked on with an average of three shots and then laboriously "stitched" together with the computers software. To say that this slowed down the procedure is an understatement. Fast calculations showed that I had about 5 years of 8 hour days ahead of me at the rate that I was preceding.

By the fall of the year I had been hooked on this project. One day while talking with an active duty LCDR and Jennifer, I decided that this project had to be taken on in earnest in order to more easily share these historic times with the many rather than just the few that had access to these microfilm libraries. I wanted to get these stories out while we still had some of our WWII submarine veterans with us, whose stories were told within these pages.

Further research found that recent technology had been developed that could now take on this conversion in a manner that would not require the manual, laborious efforts thus far expended. This newer technology was basically a huge machine that could read and convert these microfilm rolls faster than I ever could hope to accomplish. Two major companies were queried as to cost. The pricing, while fair (quoted at over six thousand dollars), was not something that the museum, nor its supporting foundation, would be able to fund. With the help of a long time friend, Dan Martini EMCM (SS), USN Ret., a partnership was formed and registered in Jefferson County of Washington State

with the express purpose of handling this project. The museum agreed to lend out the microfilm rolls (some 255) to the company that we had agreed upon and the partnership would pay the cost of the conversion process.

It was at about this time that Vice Admiral Roger Bacon, of the museums foundation, had heard of our project and wanted to help make the project move into reality. Admiral Bacon's father had been a highly respected WWII submarine Commanding Officer and thus Admiral Bacon's interest in these reports had been in mind for many years.

The initial run received from the conversion company came down to 28 full DVDs containing all of the 1,600+ war patrol reports of the 255 submarines involved. We were provided with two master copies, one in .jpg (picture) format and the other in .pdf (Adobe Reader) format. These reports were assembled in hull number sequence, oldest to the newest of the participating WWII subs. As per SubPacs instructions, the vast majority of the war patrol reports were written within the require guidelines as follows;

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| (A) Prologue                                    | (M) Radar  |
| (B) Narrative (date & time)                     | (N) Sound gear & conditions                        |
| (C) Weather                                     | (O) Density Layers                                 |
| (D) Tidal information                           | (P) Health, food & habitability                    |
| (E) Navigational aids                           | (Q) Personnel                                      |
| (F) Ship Contacts                               | (R) Miles steamed, fuel used                       |
| (G) Aircraft                                    | (S) Duration                                       |
| (H) Attacks                                     | (T) Factors of endurance remaining                 |
| (I) Mines                                       | (U) Communication, radar and sonar countermeasures |
| (J) Anti-submarine measures and evasive tactics | (V) Remarks  |
| (K) Major defects                               |  |
| (L) Radio                                       |  |

It was also at this point that we registered our newly converted war patrol reports and were issued an ISBN number of 13: 978-0-615-17769-4. together with an intellectual copyright being filed (to protect the digital conversion).

By early 2007 we had the final masters on hand and began further production from these sets. Admiral Bacon (as our mentor) financed the first (costly) five sets and donated these to the Newport, RI and Monterey, CA Naval War College libraries, the St. Mary's, Georgia Museum, USS Nautilus Museum, Groton, CN and the USS Bowfin Museum, Honolulu, HI. The partnership in turn provided a master set to the Naval Undersea Museum and to some eight submarines stationed at Bangor Submarine Base, WA during our quarterly NSL NW meetings.

Later that year, during the 2007 USSVI Alaskan Cruise Convention, these patrol reports were first introduced, in their new user friendly digital format to the submarine community at large. We also posted this information on the internet at the same time. It was the partnership's agreement, to provide at no cost, any copy of any submarine reports to any WWII sub vet or his immediate family, several hundred individual boat's patrol reports were thus sent out. Many submarine authors, (Tom Clancy, et al), researchers, and historians were among the initial purchasers.

By 2009 it was decided to make these reports available for free viewing to the general public directly on the internet. Rich Pekelney of the Historic Naval Ships Association, (HNSA), was contacted and uploaded all of the reports onto their website with a bravo zulu sent back to the partnership and our mentor Admiral Bacon. While able to view the reports for free via the internet, these pages are not easily copied or printed out.

In quick order further improvements in computer software allowed the reports to be further converted to a "compressed pdf" format greatly reducing the production time and lowering the overall cost to less then 1/10 of the initial offering. The total of the reports including all of the appendices (which include some fifteen cross references, by boat, C.O. etc.) are now on just 4 DVD's in this compressed .pdf format.

We have archived the initial run in the .jpeg format to allow for further "cleaning up" (in time) of some of the reports that were either too light, dark, smudged or had any other problems in their reading quality.

The outcome of this effort has provided an easy to use reference of the thousands of pages that if printed out on single sided paper, would be a book at over 22 feet across, a massive work!

The company, (now a corporation), has continued to provide these reports at an extremely low cost to a world wide audience. Our initial desire to acknowledge our WWII Submarine Veterans still alive has been well met and we will continue in our stated efforts through Submarine Memorabilia, Inc...

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Submarine Memorabilia, Inc.  
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# Listing of all U.S. Submarines in WWII (Pacific) by Name (alpha), Hull Number (i.e. SS-218), Number of Patrols Made & Total Pages Within War Patrol Reports.

Albacore	218	10	551	Cero	225	8	485	Herring	233	7	156	Razorback	394	5	275	Seadragon	194	12	468
Amberjack	219	3	82	Charr	328	3	114	Hoe	258	8	320	Redfin	272	7	290	Seahorse	304	8	439
Angler	240	7	338	Chub	329	3	138	Icefish	367	5	177	Redfish	395	2	201	Seal	183	12	557
Apogon	308	8	253	Cobia	245	6	269	Jack	259	9	304	Robalo	273	3	143	Sealion	315	6	330
Archerfish	311	7	223	Cod	224	7	466	Jallao	368	4	127	Rock	274	6	67	Searaven	196	13	594
Argonaut	166	2	82	Crevalle	291	7	506	Kete	369	2	36	Ronquill	396	5	251	Segundo	398	5	236
Argonaut	475	1	78	Croaker	246	6	266	Kingfish	234	12	522	Runner	275	3	94	Sennet	408	4	146
Aspro	309	7	286	Cuttass	478	1	21	Kraken	370	4	144	Runner	476	1	??	Shad	235	11	362
Atule	403	4	190	Cuttlefish	171	3	92	Lagarto	371	2	43	S-11	116	6	40	Shark	174	3	201
Balao	285	10	410	Dace	247	7	691	Lamprey	372	3	85	S-13	118	4	36	Shark	314	?	???
Bang	385	6	235	Darter	227	4	290	Lapon	260	8	325	S-15	120	3	25	Silversides	236	14	467
Barb	220	12	503	Dentuda	335	1	47	Lionfish	298	2	74	S-17	122	6	63	Skate	305	7	108
Barbel	316	4	139	Devilfish	292	4	97	Lizardfish	373	2	101	S-18	123	7	72	Skipjack	184	10	391
Barbero	317	2	100	Diablo	479	2	17	Loggerhead	374	2	59	S-23	128	7	61	Snapper	185	11	371
Barracuda	163	6	36	Dolphin	169	3	61	Macabi	375	1	32	S-26	131	2	120	Snook	279	9	334
Bashaw	241	6	312	Dragonet	293	3	117	Manta	299	1	37	S-27	132	1	107	Spadefish	411	5	308
Bass	164	4	47	Drum	228	13	350	Mingo	261	7	257	S-28	133	7	451	Spearfish	190	12	495
Batfish	310	6	331	Entemedor	340	1	26	Moray	300	1	29	S-30	135	9	152	Spikefish	404	4	113
Bayá	318	5	229	Finback	230	12	417	Muskellunge	262	7	250	S-31	136	8	152	Spot	413	3	189
Becuna	319	5	200	Flasher	249	6	265	Narwhal	167	16	357	S-32	137	8	120	Springer	414	3	86
Bergall	320	5	175	Flier	250	2	130	Nautilus	168	15	452	S-33	138	8	128	Steelhead	280	7	308
Besugo	321	5	268	Flounder	251	6	278	Paddle	263	8	381	S-34	139	7	92	Sterlet	392	5	237
Billfish	286	8	285	Flyingfish	229	12	555	Pampanito	383	6	240	S-35	140	8	143	Stickleback	415	1	33
Blackfin	322	5	60	Gabilan	252	6	225	Parche	384	6	274	S-36	141	2	87	Stringray	186	16	470
Blackfish	221	12	432	Gar	206	15	347	Pargo	264	8	482	S-37	142	7	173	Sturgeon	187	11	315
Blenny	324	4	495	Gato	212	13	552	Perch	176	2	349	S-38	143	9	40	Sunfish	281	11	459
Blower	325	3	123	Golet	361	2	27	Permit	178	14	598	S-39	144	5	117	Swordfish	193	13	422
Blueback	326	3	267	Grampus	207	6	243	Peto	265	10	380	S-40	145	9	146	Tambor	198	12	461
Bluefish	222	9	402	Grayback	208	10	477	Pickerel	177	7	254	S-41	146	8	160	Tang	306	5	206
Bluegill	242	6	389	Grayling	209	8	143	Picuda	382	6	291	S-43	154	3	107	Tarpon	175	12	393
Boarfish	327	4	154	Greenling	213	12	427	Pike	173	8	219	S-44	155	4	99	Tautog	199	13	653
Bonefish	223	8	508	Grenadier	210	6	199	Pilotfish	386	6	203	S-45	156	4	95	Tench	417	3	125
Bonita	165	7	43	Grouper	214	12	311	Pintado	387	6	236	S-46	157	5	133	Thornback	418	1	76
Bowfin	287	9	524	Growler	215	11	404	Pipefish	388	6	248	S-47	158	7	186	Threadfin	410	3	146
Bream	243	6	365	Grunion	216	1	30	Piper	409	3	111	Sailfish	192	12	366	Thresher	200	15	120
Brill	330	3	89	Guardfish	217	12	590	Piranha	389	5	227	Salmon	182	11	431	Tigrone	419	3	200
Bugara	331	3	62	Guavina	362	6	242	Plaice	390	6	354	Sand Lance	381	5	168	Tilefish	307	6	257
Bullhead	332	3	75	Gudgeon	211	12	566	Plunger	179	12	357	Sargo	188	12	447	Tinosa	283	11	521
Bumper	333	2	82	Guitarro	363	5	300	Pogy	266	10	334	Saury	189	11	431	Tirante	420	2	131
Burrfish	312	6	297	Gunnel	253	8	352	Pollack	180	11	372	Sawfish	276	10	364	Toro	422	2	51
Cabezon	334	1	36	Gurnard	254	9	489	Pomfret	391	6	359	Scabbardfish	397	5	223	Torsk	423	2	70
Cabrilla	288	8	368	Hackleback	295	2	95	Pompano	181	7	182	Scamp	277	8	229	Trepang	412	5	326
Cachalot	170	3	52	Haddo	255	40	384	Pompon	267	9	227	Scorpion	278	4	102	Trigger	237	12	381
Calman	323	4	117	Haddock	231	13	334	Porpoise	172	6	213	Sculpin	191	9	285	Triton	201	6	205
Capelin	289	1	64	Hake	256	9	320	Puffer	268	9	483	Sea Cat	399	4	155	Trout	202	11	289
Captaine	336	1	61	Halibut	232	10	357	Queenfish	393	5	248	Sea Devil	400	4	228	Trutta	421	2	154
Carbonero	337	2	50	Hammerhead	364	7	283	Quilback	424	1	63	Sea Dog	401	4	199	Tullibee	284	4	125
Carp	338	1	56	Harder	257	6	325	Rasher	269	8	543	Sea Fox	402	4	148	Tuna	203	13	497
Catfish	339	1	38	Hardhead	365	6	314	Raton	270	8	317	Sea Owl	405	3	184	Tunny	282	9	472
Cavalla	244	6	323	Hawkbill	366	5	250	Ray	271	8	399	Sea Poacher	406	4	193	Wahoo	238	7	165
												Sea Robin	407	3	177	Whale	239	8	427
												Sea Wolf	197	15	590				