

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 3, No. 11

November 2007

Newsletter of Charleston Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.



USSVI 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 toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States Government"



Base web page: www.ussvich.org
 National web page: www.ussvi.org

Base Meeting:

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Social hour 1800, General Meeting 1900

Location:

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269, Low Country Home
99 Wisteria Rd.

Goose Creek, South Carolina. Phone 843-569-2962

Base Officers		Phone Number
Commander	Steve Nelms	843-563-7115
Vice Commander	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Secretary	Ronnie Kerstetter	843-367-1026
Treasurer	George Lisle	843-559-4242

Special Officers		Phone Number
Chief of the Boat	Marty Sessler	843-871-1536
Public Affairs	Richard Cleeve	843-899-4563
Publicity	Larry Starland	843-863-8474
Sub Vets WWII	Barnwell Chaplin	843-762-6945
Nuclear Historian	Rick Carlson	843-875-4030
Veterans Affairs	John Nichols	843-873-5897
Chaplain	John Nichols	843-873-5897
Membership	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Holland Club	Bob Lowe	843-573-9045
Little David Project	Rick Wise	843-875-5559
Roving Reporter	Rick Wise	843-875-5559
Scholarship	Jim Yates	843-873-0246
Newsletter	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Storekeeper	Paul Viering	843-797-2623
Alcohol & Gaming	Dave Mueller	843-553-2775



Minutes of the October 2007 meeting

Attendance for the October 11, 2007 meeting was 94

Opening Ceremony: Base Commander, Steve Nelms, called the meeting to order. A Quorum was present and the meeting was commenced at 1900.

Introductions: Michael Cline, Rich Horton, Gary Campbell, Daniel Spagone, and Wayne Neufeld. Welcome aboard.

Secretary: Secretary Ronnie Kerstetter asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from last month. A motion was made and seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurer: George Lisle gave the treasurer's report.

Storekeeper: No report

Chaplain: Nick Nichols presented the binnacle list. Nick has asked for a 2 weeks notice if you are going to die so he can get everything prepared. Get the word to Nick if you are going to be

Newsletter: Carl Chinn asked if everyone is getting their newsletter. If you have e-mail like George Lisle now has, than you will get a better newsletter with color and animation. Submit any articles that you want in the newsletter to Carl.

Little David: Rick Wise said that the torpedo boat replica at the Berkeley museum in Moncks Corner is in good shape. He asked us to keep in mind next September, Sub Vets will again be needed to make presentations. This year Ben Heber, Frank Evans, Richard Cleeve and Rick participated in the talks.

Alcohol & Gaming: No-neck reported that we have a newly retired chief and asked Mike Slattery to stand up, the group congratulated Mike. Neck said that The After Battery promotes from within and that Rick Carlson has been bartender for years and Rick will be the new bar manager and buyer. When you work hard in the organization you move up. Neck thanked everyone for the new big screen TV, the individual donations, and also thanked Sub Vets for loaning the 700 bucks shy that was still needed to get the TV and presented a check for \$700 to Sub Vets to repay the loan. George Lisle asked where is the interest

sick, are sick, have been sick, have been in the hospital, have been cut on, etc.

Clyde Peters was in the hospital during the week of 17 September with heart palpitations. He was discharged on the 19th. The base sent a card wishing him well and wishing Sue continued success in her treatments.

Keith Schnebel was in the VA hospital but now is at home. The base sent a card wishing him well. It was just found out that Keith had kidney stone surgery today and he has gone home. The base will send a card in the morning wishing him a speedy recovery.

Stan Standrich had surgery a couple of weeks ago. He is here and doing well. No card was sent since we just found out about the surgery tonight.

Roger Gibson will be having hernia surgery on October 19th. Please keep Roger in your prayers.

Emma Grace Ruth was born last week to Glenn & Carol Gunnis. She was 21" long and weighed 7 lbs 8 oz. The base sent a card of congratulations.

Continue to remember Mike Smith who will have radical prostate surgery scheduled for November 2.

Several follow-ups were made on those who've had surgery or illnesses in the last couple of months along with the base sending additional cards.

If you know of shipmates or spouses from other bases who are having a difficult time, had surgery, etc. and would like for USSVI Charleston Base to send them a card please send their name and address to the Chaplain via email or phone call.

Dates to remember:

Midget Sub X-1 Commissioned	October 7, 1955
USS Holland (SS-1) Commissioned	October 12, 1900
Navy Day	October 13
Submarine Base New London opened	October 19, 1915

Scholarship: Jim Yates mentioned that scholarships come out once per year. Last year one kid applied and he got it. Download the form from the internet site and send it in and the scholarship committee will take a look at it. "Do not be bashful, get them to me and we will get them processed." Carl Chinn presented a new method to help fund scholarships (so we don't have to pass the hat). We are now selling the military challenge coin, Charleston Base logo on one side and the back side has dolphins and the US submarine service, pride runs deep. This will help to keep the scholarship fund going. We are selling the coin for \$7 and the case for \$1. Jim Yates, Julian Villegas and Carl Chinn have the coins; you can buy them and give them out as gifts.

Holland Club: No report

Public Affairs: Richard Cleeve has pictures of the convention cruise and the Hanahan veteran's memorial dedication on the TV monitor and has also placed pics on the website. Charleston Base had some 6 members and their wives attend the national convention cruise to Alaska. See Richard for any changes to our Charleston Base website. Larry Starland has gotten several articles printed in local newspapers about our purpose, meeting nights, our website etc. to promote our presence in the community. Larry is still trying to get a submitted article about caps4kids printed in the American Submariner magazine. WWII vets plan to have pictures taken by Rodger Gibson at next WWII Sub Vets meeting and Larry will submit them to the Berkeley Independent.

Sub Vets WWII: Sy Mabie invited everyone to the next Swamp Fox Chapter meeting at Ryan's Family Steak House 1314 North Main Street in Summerville on Thursday October 18th, at 1200 (noon). WWII Sub Vets are working on a merger with Sub Vets, Inc. Lee Allison has calendars for sale with pre WWII pictures. Cost is \$6, Panama Jack was the COB on one of these boats that was commissioned in 1925, talk him into signing it.

Veteran's Affairs: No report

Membership: Carl reports Charleston Base has 85 dinks that still owe dues for 2008. That's 30% who have not paid. After January 1st they will be considered by national as not in good standing. Buddha added that those who are dink on Jan 1st and are dropped

on the loan? Neck reports that the open house was a success, 90 people came we had steak and salad. This went off well and we made some money because I had some dedicated help (kitchen help, help at the gate, bartender, card dealers, etc.), thank you for all the help. All snacks will be free at The After Battery as long as supplies are furnished. Hotdogs selling in The After Battery on no-cover-charge nights will be \$1.25. Neck says the dogs are Oscar Meyer all beef and they come with mustard, onions, relish, and chili. "Good hotdogs, good prices, good idea, try my hot dogs." Neck then demonstrated an apology using proper body language.

Chief of the Boat: Marty Sessler gave the following report. More people volunteered for the float committee last meeting. We will be pulling the float in the Charleston Veterans parade on 11 November but need to do repairs first. Marty asked for a motion from CB to provide up to \$350 for this purpose. Motion was made, seconded and approved. Deadline for RSVP for the pig roast is one week from tomorrow, Oct 19th. See the COB to sign up tonight for the pig roast which will be held Saturday October 27th. The Hanahan parade is December 1st, we will be pulling our float. Line up 0900, parade starts at 1000, an e-mail with details will be sent out. We were scheduled to have British WWII veterans at our November regular meeting if they come. Flag folding training after the meeting tonight. Marty asked for the answer to this question, What took place again tonight that also took place at the last meeting? Answer – No new member torpedomen again tonight.

Base Commander: Buddha told the group that last Saturday's open house was to show that everyone can have a good time at social nights and he invited vets to come out some Wednesday night. Only 19-25 now support it. The food is free, the comrade costs \$5. Come out to The After Battery and support social night. George Lisle commented that as a result of the open house a few now had to go out and buy a hi def TV set.

Buddha noted for the new guys that we have a family function once per quarter and we do our best to keep Jim Eckles out of the jump castle with all the kids. Get a map to The After Battery from the COB if you have never been there before.

Nuclear Historian: No report

Old Business: Carl Chinn mentioned the Charleston Base Christmas party on December 15th at Gatherings in Dorchester, \$15 per person for member and one other person, any other guest beyond that are \$20 a piece. Paul Viering and Carl Chinn are selling the tickets. November 8th is the cutoff date for ticket sales. No tickets will be sold at the door. Fully catered all you can drink and eat, traditional Christmas fare.

New Business: Larry Starland announced that the Fleet Reserve Lowcountry Home will have a pancake breakfast on November 10th starting at 10 am. All are invited to attend this event which is part of the Charleston national veterans four day celebration.

Good Of The Order:

The depth charge drawing was held. The winner was Jack Harden.

Mike Slattery commented on the together we served website, for current and former serving members of the United States Navy. Together We Served (<http://navy.togetherweserved.com/usn>) is a unique, feature-rich resource enabling naval personnel to re-connect with lost shipmates and share memories and tell their Navy story. Mike says that he talked to the senior administrator and that all WWII vets will get free life membership access to this website. Roger Gibson was asked to relay this information to the WWII group.

Stacy Power will hold flag folding practice after the meeting tonight.

George Lisle entertained us with a Mutual of Omaha joke.

Richard Sparger asked for 2 or 3 volunteers for the Oct 26th Pig Roast to help with cooking the hog overnight, so some of us can get some sleep. It takes a lot to put these things on.

from the roles must pay a reinstatement fee to the national organization. Carl says that 3 new members signed up tonight. The list of Dinks is on the sign-in table. Carl has 2008 stickers for those who paid their dues for 2008 and want a sticker for their ID card.

Vice Commander Report: No report

Fleet Reserve: No report

District Commander: Jerry Stout ED-4 region commander told a joke and presented the eastern district four updates. Columbia has started a base called the Palmetto Base. They meet on the third Thursday of the month. They currently have 7 members. If you know of any shipmates who live in the Columbia area forward their point of contact information to Jerry. There will be a planning meeting on Saturday at the goat locker at Kings Bay for the 23-26 April 2008 District 4 Convention at the Ramada Inn, Kingsland, GA.

The annual Subvets WWII memorial service
31Oct - 3Nov 2007 at Kings Bay Sub Base.

National officer USSVI elections will be held next year along with proposed changes to the by-laws and constitution. They want to vote totally on line by e-mail.


Dave Rein ask for the Alcohol and Gaming Dept head to stand up and proceeded to reprimand No-neck for the "despicable display" of bar tending services and lack of a training program for the barkeepers at the open house held at The After Battery. Dave said he had trouble getting Makers Mark served to him and called for the Alcohol and Gaming Dept head to be impeached! Richard Carlson replied, "That was resolved and you got it."

Carl Chinn presented a flag of the USA that was flown over the former Iraqi Presidential Palace, home of the US Embassy and Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF-I) Baghdad Iraq, on July 4, 2007. This flag and certificate were given to Carl by his son who served in Iraq. It was presented to the base in honor of CB USSVI support of America's war on terrorism during operation Iraqi Freedom and signed by Admiral Fallon USN, CDR USCENCOM.

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2000.

**** End of the minutes for October 2007 ****

"Don't tell mom I'm a submariner, she thinks I play piano in a warehouse."



Barnette	Bergamo	Buxton	Campbell, G
Chollet	Dentzman	Gallagher, R	Gomez
Hubert	Kerstetter	LaForce	Lehmann
Litzenberger	McKanna	Miller, M	Morrison
Mueller	Munoz	Narowski	O'Brien
Pease	Power	Rader	Seal
Starland	Stevenson, J	Stevenson, T	Viering
Wells	Wolfe		

Membership and Dues Information:

Your 2008 dues were payable by 1 October 2007. You can pay me at the meeting or send your dues to me. Not sure how much you owe? Just ask me. List posted at the meeting.

The following are on the dink list as of 30 October:

Andersen, D	Bailey, W	Camp	Cates
Chollet	Cline	Coy	
Dasch	Dentzman	Deschaine	Detwiler
Drentlaw	Dygart	Erickson	Fletcher
Forbes	Fuller	Fulton	Gallagher, G
Gallagher, R	Gawronski	Giddens	Gleason
Grabowski	Gunnis	Habegger	Griggs
Hodges	Horton	Hubert	Ianuzzi
Johnson, E.	Jones	Kennedy	LaForce
Lavergne	Lehmann	Martinson	Miller, R
Minaudo	Mulkey	Oser	Poole
Rummans	Sanders	Schirmer	Snyder
Siebert	Stevenson, T	Suddeth	Tischler
Upchurch	Velez	Werley	Wickenhoffer
Wieland	Williams, R	Willis, D	Wilson, L
Yates, G			

Send dues (payable to USSVI) to:

Carl Chinn

217 Brailsford Rd

Summerville, SC 29485-5405

NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS!

November 8 – Regular meeting, FRA, Goose Creek.

November 8 thru 11 – National Veterans Day Celebration

November 11 – Charleston Veterans Day Parade, TBA

November 29 – Harleyville Christmas Parade; starts 1900, float leaves The After Battery at 1800

December 1 – Hanahan Christmas Parade, line up 0900, starts 1000

November Submarines Lost:

USS Corvina	SS 226	November 16, 1943
USS Sculpin	SS 191	November 19, 1943
USS Capelin	SS 289	November 23, 1943
USS Albacore	SS 218	November 7, 1944
USS Growler	SS 215	November 8, 1944
USS Scamp	SS 277	November 9, 1944

*I have one consolation that lives with me today.
That God is near to them, in his own special way.
So, God in all Your mercy, keep near Thyself the soul,
Of every Submariner, still on his final patrol.
Lord, these departed shipmates, with dolphins on their chests
are part of an outfit known as the best.
Make them welcome and take them by the hand.
You'll find without a doubt they were the best in all the land.
So, heavenly Father add their names to the roll
of our departed shipmates still on patrol.
Let them know that we who survive
will always keep their memories alive.*

Wounded Service Members Get Special Receptions At Pentagon

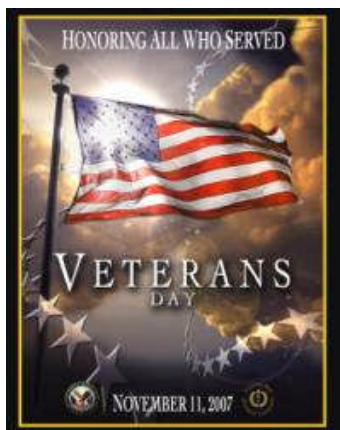
WASHINGTON – Eight times a year, a quiet side corridor at the Pentagon becomes a noisy passageway of healing for wounded warriors on their long journey to recovery.

On a recent Friday, it took only minutes for Corridor 3 to fill with hundreds of soldiers and civilians. They mustered along both sides of the hallway, forming a veritable gantlet of camouflage and business attire.

Idle conversation gave way to full attention on the far end of the hall. Then the crowd began clapping – a slow, steady cadence. It was muted at first but grew in volume, power and speed. The U.S. Army Band Brass Quintet, tucked into an alcove shared with vending machines, kicked into a medley of "Stars and Stripes Forever," "God Bless America" and "Grand Old Flag." A procession began moving down the hall – a parade of men and women, some in uniform and some wearing jeans, many in wheelchairs, many missing legs or arms or fitted with prostheses or bearing the scars of explosions, others walking with canes, some able to proceed unassisted.

Welcome to what's known as the Pentagon's "Wounded Warrior Tour."

The Army started the tour several years ago to recognize wounded soldiers, without any expectation that it would become a regular event, said Maj. Anne Edgecomb, an Army spokeswoman. "Originally, this was a small thing," she said. It soon became clear that it had the power to endure. It has become one of the most popular events in the building, judging from the number of Defense Department employees who pack the corridor for the welcome when it is held the second



Hanahan Christmas Parade

December 1, 2007. Parade starts at 1000; line-up at 0900.

Terminology Trivia

“At Loggerheads”

A serious difference of opinion. A Loggerhead is two iron balls attached by an iron rod, which was heated and used for melting pitch. Sailors sometimes used them as weapons to settle a grudge, i.e. when fighting they were “at loggerheads.”

“Tar, Jack Tar”

Tar, a slang term for a Sailor, has been in use since at least 1676. The term “Jack tar” was used by the 1780s. Early Sailors wore overalls and broad-brimmed hats made of tar-impregnated fabric called tarpaulin cloth. The hats, and the Sailors who wore them, were called tarpaulins, which may have been shortened to tars.



Christmas Party

Charleston Base annual Christmas Party will be December 15. Cocktails at 1700, dinner served at 1830.

Party will again be at Gatherings in Dorchester, SC.

You must have a ticket to attend. Tickets are available from Paul Viering or Carl Chinn. They will be on sale until November 8.

Cost: \$15 each for member and 1 guest, \$20 each for all other guests.

[No ticket sales after November 8...No exceptions!](#)

If you can't make the meetings or Wednesday social, contact Paul or Carl.

[No ticket sales at the door.](#)



Why Are They Called Boats?

By: Paul Wittmer

The answer is, “Because that’s what they originally were, and the name stuck.”

A torpedo boat in Revolutionary and Civil war days was a boat, propelled by oarsmen, which carried an explosive device. The explosive device was intended to be attached to the side of an enemy vessel and set off with a timing device. Some explosives, used during the Civil War, were attached to a long spar, which

Friday of the month, eight times a year.

Yet for those outside the Pentagon, it is one of the best-kept secrets, largely because media coverage of the event is generally forbidden.

The most recent procession included about 35 service members from Walter Reed Army Medical Center who have been hospitalized after service in Iraq or Afghanistan. They were mostly soldiers in this Army-sponsored event, but Marines and sailors also attended.

A woman in a wheelchair led the procession. She was followed by a man in a wheelchair wearing a T-shirt celebrating the “dogface soldiers” of the Army’s 3rd Infantry division.

“Thank you,” said another man, who has lost a leg. His wheelchair was pushed by a small group of family members. The next soldier had a sheepish smile on his boyish-looking face. He, too, was missing a leg.

Another man in a wheelchair was accompanied by a little girl in a stroller, presumably his daughter. She waved an American flag. They proceeded through a sea of applause and admiration – some reacting with wonder, or appreciation or a smile, while others bore little expression as they shook hands, expressing their gratitude or simply acknowledging the support.

“It makes you proud, but at the same time it tears the heart right out of your chest,” said Stanley Freeman, as the wounded warriors continued on for a VIP tour of the Pentagon and a private lunch with generals in the executive dining room. Freeman, a Vietnam War veteran who works as a civilian logistics director for the Marine Corps, said he makes it a point to come to the event whenever he can. He has attended almost a dozen of these welcomes.

“It’s emotional; it’s very touching,” he said. “You can see how tough they are.”

“They hold their pride,” added Connie King, another civilian Marine Corps employee. A former Marine herself, she observed that the considerable number of wounded women in the procession shows that this is a “different kind of war” from past conflicts. “They have a long journey, and we just want to make sure they’re not forgotten,” she said.

Sgt. Maj. Dennis Edelbrock, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Army’s brass quintet, has been playing for the tour since the first time it was held.

Early on, he said, there was debate about whether it should become a permanent fixture.

“I said: ‘Hey, this is a no-brainer. This is where we need to be. Nothing we do could be more important,’” Edelbrock recalled. He said the experience of playing for the wounded warriors continues to be moving.

“They’re guys who’ve done what other people talk about doing,” he said. “These guys have done it and they’ve paid a price for it. It’s going to affect them the rest of their lives.” Yet, he added, “so many of them are very positive about it.”

Saul Rosenberg, a clinical psychologist and professor at the University of California San Francisco, who has testified on military health issues before Congress, believes that events such as the wounded-warrior tour have a significant, positive impact on recovering service members.

Recent research conducted on troops returning from war shows that “social support” is one of the most important factors in recovery, Rosenberg said.

“And even a stranger from the military who really understands what your sacrifice is about – and hearing all that applause and seeing all those people who got up from their desks and came out – it’s healing,” he said. “It’s mentally healing. I don’t care if it’s (just) 15 minutes.”

Though the Army says it generally prohibits media coverage of the event at participants’ request, it allowed part of the most recent tour to be observed.

Edgecomb, the Army spokeswoman, said the wounded personnel have “always expressed that they just want it to be ... invisible” to the media.

No interviews with any of the wounded warriors or photographs of the event were allowed.

Not surprisingly, each tour requires many hours of preparation, and a different agency volunteers to help out each time.

protruded off the bow of the boat and the crew was supposed to ram the explosive into the enemy vessel. This was most often a volunteer mission with little chance of escape.

Robert Fulton, around 1805, is also credited with the development of a torpedo; actually, a mine, because it was not self propelled; it was floated to the target and exploded by a clockwork mechanism. Before Robert Fulton, there was David Bushnell. It was David Bushnell's experiments, while at Yale in Connecticut that led to his device for exploding gunpowder under water. A means of delivering such an explosive mine was also on his mind at the time. By mid January of 1775, the country was on the verge of open rebellion.

His Turtle was designed, built, tested and launched in secrecy in Long Island Sound. The purpose of the vessel was to attach an underwater mine to the keel of a ship, set the timing device, developed for the purpose, and escape undetected. A test was made using an old hulk and live powder. The hulk was demolished. An attack was mounted against a British Man of War anchored off Manhattan Island, now known as New York City. This represented the first war time use of a submersible against an enemy vessel. It was done with David Bushnell's Turtle during the Revolutionary war. Getting the explosive to a position under the enemy vessel in New York harbor went fairly good, under cover of darkness; however attaching the explosive to the copper covered keel of the enemy warship failed. On the return trip of the Turtle, to Manhattan Island, the explosive was jettisoned and it exploded harmlessly. It did have the effect of causing the enemy fleet to relocate to a safer anchorage.

The famous words of David Farragut, repeated often, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!", referred to mines and not the self-propelled torpedoes that are often thought of. In 1864, David Farragut led an assault on the Confederate port, Mobile Bay. Disregarding the loss of one ironclad ship to a mine, he is said to have cried out, "Damn the torpedoes; Full speed ahead!" and proceeded into the bay where he captured the Confederate flotilla. The first successful self-propelled or automotive torpedoes were the Whitehead torpedoes. In the early 1870's, Robert Whitehead developed a self propelled or automotive torpedo, powered by a three-cylinder engine of 40-horse power.

Delivery of the self propelled torpedo, and vessels to carry these weapons steadily improved in the vessels as well as in the torpedoes themselves. Aircraft, surface craft, such as the PT Boats of WWII, Destroyers, Cruisers as well as other vessels, have delivered torpedoes. The development of the submarine to deliver torpedoes to an enemy, really had it's hey-day during WWI and again during WWII.

The record of efficiency of the combination of the fleet type submarine and torpedoes was most impressive; even with the notoriously faulty torpedoes used during WWII.

A wide variety of means to deliver torpedoes followed. There were high speed (surface) torpedo boats, used in relatively calm waters, larger destroyer vessels suitable for longer periods at sea, aircraft, for quick strikes against enemy vessels and the development of submarine boats that could remain at sea for long periods at a time. It was the development of that efficient submarine boat that caught the attention of naval designers during WWI and especially as a result of the achievements during WWII.

Submarine builders used the name "Boat" in their titles. For example, there was the J. B. Holland Torpedo Boat Company, the Lake Torpedo Boat Company, the Fore River Submarine Boat Company, the California Submarine Boat Company, the Bethlehem Submarine Boat Company, and the Electric Boat Company. The name "Torpedo Boat" stuck because, that's what they were originally called.

Friday Morning At The Pentagon

.....things we don't hear about.....please readthis is very touching and true. Here is something the media should be ashamed of for their indifference, and especially the New York Times conglomerate.

Here's Lt. Col. Bateman's account of a little-known ceremony that fills the halls of the Army corridor of the Pentagon with cheers, applause and many tears every Friday morning.

"It is 110 yards from the "E" ring to the "A" ring of the Pentagon. This section of the Pentagon is newly renovated; the floors shine,

On this day, it was the Army Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff of Installation Management that provided more than 60 ushers and escorts for the event, including Terry Dingus, an Army veteran who is now a civilian employee at the office. Dingus said the group also raised several thousand dollars through car washes and bake sales to pay for gift packages for the patients, which he said contained phone calling cards, movie tickets and other items.

"These kids are doing a lot," Dingus said. "I admire the heck out of them for what they do."



From the Chaplain: Eternal Patrol Preparations

The last issue of The American Submariner had an article on Eternal Patrol Preparations. The article explained how to get to a excellent booklet that would be helpful to my survivors in the event of my death. It took me over 30 minutes to find the document (and I'm pretty good with a computer) so I want to make it easier for our Charleston Base members to have a copy of the "Shipmates Helping Shipmates" booklet. I have asked our webmaster to place a link to the booklet on the USSVICB web site in the Veteran's Affairs section. Feel free to click the link to the PDF, print it out, fill in what is needed and keep it with your important papers. It will be of great help to your survivors when that sad day comes, as it must.

If you do not have internet access, I'll be happy to get you a copy. Contact me either by email (mailto:jenichols@netzero.net) or by phone at 843.873.2283 (work), 843.873.5897 (home) and I'll be happy to bring you a copy to the next meeting.

While I hope your day is far off in the future, you must nevertheless prepare.

Editor's Note: This is the link to the booklet on the national web site:

http://ussvi.org/Documents/Online_Manuals_Shipmates_Helping_Shipma

Bill Advances That Could Boost Sub-Making

GROTON - A defense bill that passed the U.S. Senate appropriations committee Wednesday included money that could start boosting submarine production by one sub a year. In an industry that makes only one submarine annually, it means business would double.

U.S. Sen. Christopher J. Dodd characterized the vote as a rescue of the submarine fleet and said it shows Congress defying the administration, which, according to Navy scheduling, was going to wait until 2012 to increase sub production.

"This bill marks the culmination of years of effort to save our nation's submarine fleet," the Connecticut Democrat said in a statement Wednesday. "Congress has finally decided to stand up to this administration, plot a new course for our defense priorities and invest in America's critical manufacturing industries."

This 2008 spending plan includes \$470 million above the president's request for submarines. Although that only pays for about a fifth of a Virginia-class attack sub, it's enough to begin buying a nuclear reactor and propulsion system.

A strong start now could result in the building of a full extra sub by 2010 - two years earlier than the Navy planned.

"It's the most significant news to date, for sure," said Bob Hamilton, the spokesman at Groton's Electric Boat, which splits submarine building with Virginia's Northrop Grumman.

Wednesday's vote means that all of the congressional committees that had a say in this funding agree that it's a good idea, Hamilton said. "It's welcome news."

In rapid-fire succession, the spending bill passed the defense appropriations subcommittee Tuesday and the full committee Wednesday. Its next stop, the Senate floor, is expected in about a month.

Though neither of Connecticut's senators, Dodd and Sen. Joe

the hallway is broad, and the lighting is bright. At this instant the entire length of the corridor is packed with officers, a few sergeants and some civilians all crammed tightly three and four deep against the walls. There are thousands here.

"This hallway, more than any other, is the 'Army' hallway. The G3 offices line one side, G2 the other, G8 is around the corner. All Army. Moderate conversations flow in a low buzz. Friends who may not have seen each other for a few weeks, or a few years, spot each other, cross the way and renew. Everyone shifts to ensure an open path remains down the center. The air conditioning system was not designed for this press of bodies in this area. The temperature is rising already. Nobody cares.

"10:36 hours: The clapping starts at the E-Ring. That is the outermost of the five rings of the Pentagon and it is closest to the entrance to the building. This clapping is low, sustained, hearty. It is applause with a deep emotion behind it as it moves forward in a wave down the length of the hallway.

"A steady rolling wave of sound it is, moving at the pace of the soldier in the wheelchair who marks the forward edge with his presence. He is the first. He is missing the greater part of one leg, and some of his wounds are still suppurating. By his age I expect that he is a private, or perhaps a private first class.

"Captains, majors, lieutenant colonels and colonels meet his gaze and nod as they applaud, soldier to soldier. Three years ago when I described one of these events, those lining the hallways were somewhat different. The applause a little wilder, perhaps in private guilt for not having shared in the burden ... yet.

"Now almost everyone lining the hallway is, like the man in the wheel-chair, also a combat veteran. This steadies the applause, but I think deepens the sentiment. We have all been there now. The soldier's chair is pushed by, I believe, a full colonel.

"Behind him, and stretching the length from Rings E to A, come more of his peers, each private, corporal, or sergeant assisted as need be by a field grade officer.

"11:00 hours: Twenty-four minutes of steady applause. My hands hurt, and I laugh to myself at how stupid that sounds in my own head. 'My hands hurt.' Christ. Shut up and clap. For twenty-four minutes, soldier after soldier has come down this hallway - 20, 25, 30. Fifty-three legs come with them, and perhaps only 52 hands or arms, but down this hall came 30 solid hearts.

"They pass down this corridor of officers and applause, and then meet for a private lunch, at which they are the guests of honor, hosted by the generals. Some are wheeled along. Some insist upon getting out of their chairs, to march as best they can with their chin held up, down this hallway, through this most unique audience. Some are catching hand-shakes and smiling like a politician at a Fourth of July parade. More than a couple of them seem amazed and are smiling shyly.

"There are families with them as well: the 18-year-old war-bride pushing her 19-year-old husband's wheelchair and not quite understanding why her husband is so affected by this, the boy she grew up with, now a man, who had never shed a tear is crying; the older immigrant Latino parents who have, perhaps more than their wounded mid-20s son, an appreciation for the emotion given on their son's behalf. No man in that hallway, walking or clapping, is ashamed by the silent tears on more than a few cheeks. An Airborne Ranger wipes his eyes only to better see. A couple of the officers in this crowd have themselves been a part of this parade in the past.

"These are our men--broken in body they may be, but they are our brothers, and we welcome them home.

This parade has gone on, every single Friday, all year long, for more than four years."

Did you know that? The media hasn't told the story!

De-Nuked Navy Sub Deploys to Fight War on Terror
PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii The first U.S. Navy submarine converted to fight terror instead of deter a Cold War adversary is en route to the Western Pacific via Hawaii, the first time such a ship has ever deployed.

The USS Ohio was originally equipped in the 1970s to hold 24 nuclear-tipped long-range ballistic missiles. But with the Cold War over, the Navy transformed the Ohio and three other similar subs to carry conventional Tomahawk cruise missiles and dozens of Navy SEALs instead.

The ship, based in Bremerton, Wash., is expected to head toward

Lieberman, serve on the appropriations committee, both have been working to influence this outcome, as have the state's members of the House and the governor's office.

The House already passed its version of the 2008 defense spending bill last month. It, too, had money for "advance procurement" of submarine parts, but the amount was significantly higher, at \$588 million.

The difference, according to Dodd's staff, is the cost of an extra propulsion system that would be built as a spare for the fleet. By having the spare, if one of the current Virginia-class subs needed to replace its propulsion system, it wouldn't derail the building of the new submarine.

If the bill passes the full Senate, a conference committee will work out the differences between the two bills.

The U.S. submarine fleet has been declining in number, decommissioning boats faster than they are being built. Even if the production rate increases, the current fast-attack fleet of more than 50 will decline further in the coming years.

Also, this has been the first period in sub fleet history in which no new boat design is on the drawing board.

That's a specific worry for state lawmakers and Electric Boat because the highly specialized design staff at the southeastern Connecticut factory has been dwindling.

If it's sapped further by EB layoffs because of a shortage of work, the experienced submarine designers aren't easily replaced. But that's another thing this bill may partially address.

In addition to the \$470 million for sub parts, there's a \$5 million item for an undersea launch missile study. Though that's a relatively small amount of money, it's a potential first step toward designing a new generation of strategic missile subs.

After a series of layoffs, EB has maintained a steady workforce since last year. Hamilton said unexpected repair work has allowed that, but he couldn't rule out future layoffs.

"We're still evaluating the projected workload and seeing what comes up," he said.

The sooner the extra submarine is ordered, the better, he said.

Contest Underway to Redefine 'Shipmate'

Editor's Note: You would think that the Fleet Master Chief would already know this!

PEARL HARBOR (NNS) -- Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief (SW/AW) Tom Howard invites all Sailors throughout the Navy to enter a writing contest to redefine the term "shipmate" in today's fleet.

Fleet Master Chief Howard will announce the winner in early 2008. The Sailor whose definition is selected will be presented a rendition of the winning entry by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Adm. Robert F. Willard. The winning entry will also be published in All Hands magazine, on Navy NewsStand (www.navy.mil), and on the Pacific Fleet Web site (www.cpf.navy.mil).

The theme of the special event is, "What Being a Shipmate Means to Me" as written through the eyes of today's Sailors. The contest carries on the rich traditions of the Navy as it will tell the story of today's shipmate and at the same time, honor those who have served in the Navy the past 232 years as well as those who have yet to serve.

"Sailors will be forever identified by their courage in the face of danger and the moral conviction to stand up for what's right," wrote Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr. in his birthday message to the fleet. "The term 'ship, shipmate, self' was created at sea. To a United States Sailor, there is no better description of our culture and our character."

Howard joins the U.S. Pacific Fleet chiefs mess and the Navy League of Hawaii in sponsoring the writing contest to honor Sailors past and present. In early October, Howard sponsored a Senior Enlisted Leadership of the Pacific symposium in Hawaii, which included discussions about what being a shipmate means. "It is our responsibility to our commanders and to our Navy to listen to our Sailors and to provide advice to Navy leadership," Howard said. "So, we thought, who better to define 'what being a Shipmate means' than our Sailors - our Sailors who are willing to sacrifice everything. In an all-volunteer force, it's the personal sacrifices of today's Sailors who make the decision every day to fight for the freedoms of not only our own country, but also those

Asia to help support U.S. efforts against terror after it spends a few days at Pearl Harbor and a few weeks of training near the Hawaiian Islands.

Capt. Chris Ratliff, the submarine's skipper, wouldn't tell reporters Monday specifically where the Ohio would deploy. He would only say it would be "close to the beach."

"We're going to go into places where we must remain undetected for weeks, if not months, at a time," Ratliff said. "We're going to collect real intelligence that's going to be really used to prosecute the war."

He said the SEALs short for sea, air and land commandos will be sent ashore from the Ohio while the vessel is submerged. The submarine, which has a 159-sailor crew, will have 66 Navy SEALs on board.

The Ohio will be away from its home port for over one year, but will trade crews every three to four months in the U.S. territory of Guam. Switching the sailors, instead of bringing the ship back to its homeport for a change of crew, allows the Navy to maximize its use.

The deployment is the first for any of the four Ohio-class submarines after being converted. The USS Florida and USS Michigan have also been transformed to accommodate the cruise missiles and SEALs, but they haven't been used yet for real-world missions. The remaining sub, the USS Georgia, is still being worked on.

Most of the Navy's submarines are nuclear-powered fast attack vessels that frequently escort aircraft carriers and other large vessels on deployments. The Navy currently has about 50 fast-attack submarines in its fleet. They are also able to carry SEALs, but not as many as the newly refitted Ohio-class subs.

During the Cold War, the pre-conversion submarines would head out to deep ocean waters and wait, quietly, for an order from the president to launch nuclear missiles, Ratliff said.

Today, the Ohio has a different mission.

"We're going to take this boat into shallow, congested, littoral waters close to the beach, ready to put SEALs ashore, ready to strike, ready to collect intelligence," Ratliff said.

The missions are similar only in that they both emphasize stealth, mobility and flexibility, he said.



ATTITUDE

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our attitudes."

Wear Testing for New Navy Uniforms Announced

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Selected officers and Sailors will begin limited wear testing of new uniform proto types, service dress khaki

countries that might not be able to fight for themselves."

In 75 words or less, Sailors are encouraged to explain their personal definition of shipmate and what it means to be a shipmate in today's Navy. The contest is open to all Sailors, from E-1 to O-10. All work must be original and unpublished. The word "shipmate" must be capitalized in all entries.

Please send e-mail entries to cpf.fleetfeedback@navy.mil.

Subject line should read What Being a Shipmate Means to Me. Mail-in submissions should be sent to: What Being a Shipmate Means to Me

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, c/o FLTCM (SW/AW) Tom Howard, 250 Makalapa Drive, Pearl Harbor HI 96860-3131

All entries must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 16. Entries not received by Dec. 31 will not be judged.

Questions about the contest should be sent to

cpf.fleetfeedback@navy.mil.

Navy Launches Cutting Edge Rich-Media Web Site

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- On the eve of its 232 birthday, the Navy has introduced a new, user-friendly Web site which will better serve its Sailors, their families and the public. The new www.navy.mil Web site design now has a more appealing and intuitive rich-media focus, rather than an electronic print focus. The highly interactive site offers a variety of new multimedia capabilities, which means visitors can more easily browse the extensive video, radio, print and multimedia stories produced by and for Navy members.

One of the most noticeable changes to the site is the presentation. The redesign of Navy.mil is now focused on rich media content instead of electronic print media thereby providing equal visibility and access to all products. Clicking on the media port logo will take the user to a carousel interface of rotating icons. These icons offer all Naval Media Center products including All Hands Radio, All Hands Television, Daily News Update, Podcasts, Photo Gallery, Every Day in the Navy (short multimedia pieces that showcase Navy activities and events) and All Hands Magazine.

One other visible change will be the full integration of Navy NewsStand into Navy.mil. All "Top Stories" and "Headlines" will now be offered on the Navy.mil front page, with the main Navy NewsStand page being phased out. Local stories will still be available on local NewsStand sites as before.

"Our goal in this redesign is to provide the U.S. Navy and its public the type of site they'll not only like but use regularly as a source of reliable information," said William Spencer, the Interactive Media Program Manager for Navy.mil. "The feedback we've received in beta testing has been extremely positive and people think the site's high-speed, cutting-edge look and feel better reflects our high-tech Navy."

Those who prefer video-specific media will be pleased to learn all video will be available for download in the Windows Media Video format.

However, viewing will be integrated into the site using flash player.

This new capability makes products more accessible regardless of the user's computer operating system. Additionally, the site will now offer products for download at any time, whether the material is current or archived.

Navy Sub Sidelined And Six Crew Disciplined After Routine Review

The Navy is investigating the crew of the fast attack submarine Hampton after a routine end-of-deployment review found problems in the "conduct of procedures" on the vessel, a Navy spokeswoman said.

Six crew members, including an officer, have been disciplined as the sub stays sidelined at Naval Base Point Loma in San Diego, CA, where it will remain until the investigation concludes, according to Submarine Squadron 11 spokeswoman Lt. Alli Myrick who responded to questions from Inside the Navy.

The service has remained tight-lipped about the investigation, saying only that the conduct of procedures, "although found to be safe, fell short of high Navy standards," according to a brief press release issued Oct. 12. Myrick declined to discuss the alleged conduct in greater detail.

for chiefs and officers and service dress blue and white for E-6 and below, late this fall or early winter.

“The service dress khaki uniform is in a traditional style, last worn during the Vietnam era,” said Robert Carroll, Head, Uniform Matters Office.

The E6 and below service uniforms, which still look much like the “Crackerjack” of today, will feature hidden zippers for ease of dressing and new piping for service dress white. The service dress blue will be for men only, he explained.

Uniform testing is expected to run for 90 to 120 days. The selected officers and Sailors will evaluate the uniforms’ functionality, appearance and acceptability and provide their feedback to the Navy Uniform Matters Office, according to Carroll.

Testing of the dress khaki and service blues and whites will be in Norfolk, Va., Washington, D.C., Millington, Tenn., and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. An overseas testing site may be added later according to Carroll. The service dress whites will have limited wear tests in Key West, Fla., and Pearl Harbor. About 225 officers and Sailors are expected to take part in the wear tests.

Carroll also said delivery of a single Navy working uniform for wear by all Sailors E-1 to O-10, and a year round service uniform for all Sailors E-6 and below is on track to get to the Fleet in summer 2008. The new Navy PT uniform is on track for spring 2008.



Admiral Osborne Scholarship Fund

How about helping out the scholarship fund? We are offering a Charleston Base Challenge Coin for sale. ALL proceeds go into the scholarship fund.

Coins only cost \$7 each. Available for an additional \$1 is a protective plastic capsule.

To get your coin(s) see Jim Yates, Julian Villegas or Carl Chinn.

Make sure you have one for “when you get challenged”!

Buy several for great gifts!



The investigation is being conducted to “determine the extent of these issues,” the release reads.

The standards for professionalism in question cover operations, record keeping, training and qualifications, she said in the e-mail response.

She also declined to discuss in greater detail the disciplinary action taken against the crew members, saying it was nonjudicial punishment and that administrative disciplinary action is not released to the public.

The crew members remain on board, Myrick said.

An end-of-deployment review is a routine action that involves reviewing crew proficiency by conducting a program of training, testing and qualification. It was because of issues raised during the review that Capt. Chip Jaenichen, Submarine Squadron 11 commander, ordered the investigation early last month, she said. The sub will remain docked for the duration of the investigation, although “at present we do not expect any changes” to the sub’s operational schedule, she said.

The Hampton, a Los Angeles-class sub commissioned in 1993, was relocated from its original home port of Norfolk, VA to its current port in San Diego last month.

