

# TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 7, No. 2/3

February/March 2011

## 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 Meeting:**

March 10, 2011 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

<b>Base Officers</b>		<b>Phone Number</b>
Commander	Paul Viering	843-797-2623
Vice Commander	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Secretary	Ed Stank	843- 569-6012
Treasurer	Terry Trump	843-873-9563

#### **Special Officers**

#### **Phone Number**

Chief of the Boat	Rick Wise	843-875-5559
Public Affairs	Ed Stank	843- 569-6012
Veterans Affairs	Jim Morrison	843-832-9716
Chaplain	John Nichols	843-452-3189
Membership	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Holland Club	Terry Trump	843-797-2991
Scholarship	Jim Yates	843-873-0246
Newsletter	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Storekeeper	Ken Fuhr	803-413-3657
Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843-452-3189
Historian	George Scharf	843 873-3318

#### **February minutes not available at publication**

#### **Minutes of the January 2011 meeting**

Attendance for the January 13, 2011 meeting was 96

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

**Introductions:** New people introduced. Welcome aboard.

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

**Treasurer:** Terry gave the treasurer’s report.

**Storekeeper:** Don Mook is the new Base SK start. Recommended to members that submarine patches could be obtained faster if ordered on line. This will preclude the base SK from ordering patches and other items if desired.

**Chaplain:** The following shipmates were tolled:  
Sonar Technician Senior Chief, Submarines, Avery ‘Jim’ Lord, United States Navy Retired. Shipmate departed on Eternal Patrol – December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Machinist Mate Senior Chief, Submarines, Richard ‘Rick’ Waller, United States Navy Retired. Shipmate departed on Eternal Patrol – November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Commander, Submarines, Albert Aloysius Wood, Jr., United States Navy Retired. Shipmate departed On Eternal Patrol – January 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2011  
 Machinist Mate Senior Chief, Submarines, Walter A. Job, United States Navy Retired. Shipmate departed On Eternal Patrol – January 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2011

Cards received:  
 From Angie Waller and family in appreciation for the services performed for Rick.

From Nola Redd and family in appreciate of the card sent for Bill Redd.

January Report:  
 Avery Lord departed on Eternal Patrol on Dec. 17th. The funeral was held on Dec. 21st

Bill Redd, retired RMCM(SS) and member of Groton Base, departed on Eternal Patrol on Nov. 22nd.

Rodney McKanna's father passed away in Illinois on Nov. 24th. His funeral will be on December 7th.

Rodney's father was 93 and a WWII veteran with the army artillery in the Pacific.

Marilyn Keller is now in remission from her LOW grade of Non - Hodgekins' Lymphoma. This is great news as Jim and Marilyn have been asking for prayers for a long time over this. She will be going for another test in May to determine her status then.

MTC(SS) William Carlen, a member of Groton Base, departed on Eternal Patrol on Dec. 26th. A card was sent to the family.

James Fuhr had extensive back surgery on Monday, Dec. 27. He is doing well and is even here with us tonight.

CDR(SS) Albert Wood, Jr., a WWII Subvet and member of Swamp Fox Chapter, Charleston Base and Holland Club, departed on Eternal Patrol on Jan. 5th. I made contact with his family but due to the timing of the viewing and the fact the burial was in Beaufort, no Bell Tolling was conducted. I have talked to his daughter, Jean, and she will contact me when and if the family wished to have a memorial service where we can make our family presentations and conduct a bell tolling.

MMCS(SS) Walter Job, a member of Charleston Base and the Holland Club, departed on Eternal Patrol on Jan. 11th. His viewing will be on Friday night 6-8pm at Avinger FH in Holly Hill and the funeral will be on Saturday morning 11am at St Michaels Lutheran Church in Moncks Corner. SUBVETS will conduct their bell tolling and flag folding at the funeral. Walter will be cremated and taken back to South Dakota.

Danny Davis had back surgery a couple of weeks ago and is recovering slowly. He has limited mobility using a walker and asks that we keep him and his family in prayer.

Linda Beach, Thom's wife, had a stroke mid-day today. She is currently at Roper being evaluated. At present the doctors have told them it appears there are some problems with her right side.

Bill Jennings had a stroke last year and is back at our meetings.

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.

**Public Affairs:** No report

**Scholarship:** Packages have been mailed to all the local high schools for this year's scholarship award. Submissions are due by March 15 and the sponsor must be member of United States Submarine Veterans but not specifically from any base.

**Veteran's Affairs:** No report

**Little David:** No report

**Holland Club:** Indoctrination into the Holland Club will be performed in April at the monthly meeting. If you believe you are eligible contact the membership chairman, Carl Chinn or the Holland Club representative John Lookabill.

Last	First	Qual Date	Last	First	Qual Date
Alkire	Richard	08/61	Larsen	Donald	06/61
Birdwhistell	Glen	02/59	Lindberg	Thomas	01/61
Bonow	David	06/58	Londergan	Donald	08/57
Britton	Thomas	12/60	McCollem	Robert	01/57
Campbell	Newell	09/60	Mills	John	02/60
Douglass	Peter	07/60	Pruitt	William	01/59
Emerson	Miguel	09/61	Saari	David	06/60
Feller	Harry	02/59	Schaffer	Jerome	05/58
Gallagher	Robert	02/60	Semler	Gary	08/61
Higgins	James	09/54	Silvers	Monty	09/59
Houston	John	04/61	Stump	Richard	03/61
Hutchinson	Clell	01/61	Weaver	William	06/56
Keller	James	12/60	Wieda	Thomas	10/59
Koehler	Richard	06/61	Wilson	Barry	01/61
Langley	Robert	10/60	Wilson	Murrell	01/56

**After Battery Rep:** The Amberjack bell is being refurbished by the local technical school. Need an engraver for work on the bell. There are still koozies available for \$4 each or 2/\$7. Ball caps are available for \$18.00. Received a Christmas card from Panama Jack's family and sadly his dementia is getting worse. Jack is over 90 years old; please keep him in your prayers.

**SUBVETS WWII:** The next meeting of the WWII Submarine Veterans, Swamp Fox chapter will be held at Ryan's in Summerville on Main Street at 11:30 on February 17 2011. Lee talked to Pappy Henderson and his health is not improving. Please keep him in your prayers also.

**Historian:** No report

**Base Commander:** We will participate in the H.L. Hunley memorial service on February 17<sup>th</sup> 2011. 17 volunteers are needed to support the event.

On Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> of March we will be conducting the annual USS Amberjack (SS-219) memorial at Patriots Point. There are only 16 WWII submarine veterans left in South Carolina so come out and support this historical event.

We will be participating in the Saint Patrick's Day parade in Savannah next year; 2012. Get your hotel reservations made early as they book up fast for this great time.

Submissions for the Distinguished Submariner Award are due by the next meeting.

We need a volunteer for the "Kaps for Kids" program.

**Nuclear Historian:** Political correctness: An annual contest is held at Texas A&M University calling for the most appropriate definition of the contemporary term. This year's term was "Political Correctness". The winner wrote: "Political Correctness is a doctrine, fostered by a delusional, illogical minority, and rabidly promoted by an unscrupulous mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a turd by the clean end."

**Fleet Reserve:** No report

**Chief of the Boat:** The Oyster Roast will be held on February 26<sup>th</sup> at the After Battery, come out and have a great time. Rick Sparger has agreed to set on the new recreation committee. We need two more volunteers.

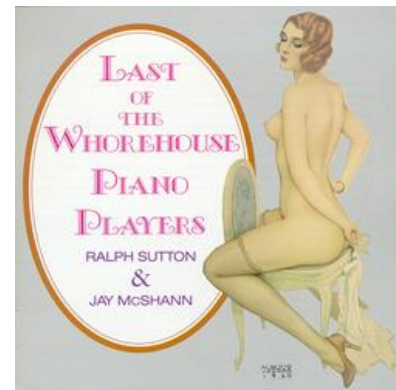
**Old Business:** Ken Hutchinson has procured all the flags for our community and organizational functions at a cost of ~\$250.00. Well Done.

**New Business:** None

**Good Of The Order:** Dave Rein won a bottle of rum left over from the Christmas Party and donated it to the After Battery.

Dana Johnson won the Depth Charge drawing of \$296.00 .00 and donated \$96.00 to the Scholarship fund.

Meeting Adjourned: The Base Commander adjourned the meeting.



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

#### February Submarines Lost:

USS Shark	SS 174	February 11, 1942
USS Amberjack	SS 219	February 16, 1943
USS Grayback	SS 208	February 26, 1944
USS Trout	SS 202	February 28, 1944
USS Barbel	SS 316	February 4, 1945
H.L. Hunley		February 17, 1864

#### March Submarines Lost:

USS Perch	SS 176	March 3, 1942
USS Grampus	SS 207	March 5, 1943
USS Triton	SS 201	March 15, 1943
USS Tullibee	SS 284	March 26, 1944
USS Kete	SS 369	March 20, 1945
USS Trigger	SS 237	March 26, 1945
USS F-4	SS 21	March 25, 1915
USS H-1	SS 28	March 12, 1920

*There is a port of no return, where ships  
May ride at anchor for a little space  
And then, some starless night, the cable slips,  
Leaving an eddy at the mooring place . . .  
Gulls, veer no longer. Sailor, rest your oar.  
No tangled wreckage will be washed ashore.*





### February Birthdays!

Acton	Barwick	Bates	Burke
Cox	Curry	Gilmer	Hamilton
Hayden	Hoefen	Jennings	Jones, W
Koebel	Koehler	Massey	Neff
Rash	Rogers	Rook	Sickle
Stout	Van Swearingen	Wickenhoffer	Young, N



### March Birthdays!

Allen	Anderson	Baciocco	
Dale	Deschaine	Hix	Johnson, D
Legg	Luther	McLuskey	Mook
O'Saben	Przyborowski	Rosselot	Sessler
Sites	Smith, M	Snyder, R J	Spear
Wieland	Williams, G		

### March Happenings!

March 10 – General Meeting; social hour 1800, meeting starts 1900

March 19 – Amberjack Memorial Service starts at 1100, Patriots Point, Mt. Pleasant

### Legal Documents Link

Below is a link to getting legal documents such as wills and powers of attorney from the military legal office located in Building 84 at the Naval Weapons Station.

You provide the information on-line and save. When you save you get a ticket number. Be sure to save that ticket number and take it to legal to complete your documents. Nothing can be printed from your computer, you must make an appointment with legal. Your documents are saved on-line for 90 days and then deleted.

<https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil/lass/lass.html>

*"He is the Submarine Sailor who served in silence, but in his silence, has heard the laughter of future generations."*

### Announcement for Nautilus Ocala Ceremony

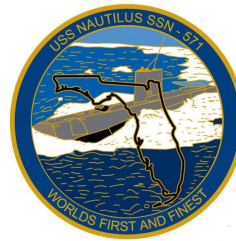
Dedication of USS Nautilus memorial pedestal in Ocala/Marion county Veterans Memorial Park.



There will be a dedication ceremony of the USS Nautilus Memorial Pedestal located in the Ocala/Marion County Veterans Memorial Park in Ocala, Florida. The ceremony will be held on April 30, 2011 at 09:00 AM to 11:00 AM. The dedication is being hosted by the USSVI Seadragon Base based in Lady Lake, Florida with the assistance of Base Commander Frank Holland from the Nautilus Base in Ocala, Florida.

Attending the ceremony will be members of all the USSVI bases in the Southeast Region who will be attending the Southeast Region annual convention being held at the Holiday Inn in Ocala, Florida, April 27-May 1, 2011, hosted by the Seadragon Base. Tolling of the Boats will a major part of the ceremony, conducted by the Seadragon Base.

Participating in the ceremony will be the 87 piece Kingdom of the Sun Concert Band, the 15 piece Marion County Sheriffs State Champion Bagpipe and Drum Corps, Marion County Sheriff's Rifle Honor Guard and the Marine Honor Guard. Father Johnathon French of Grace Episcopal Church, dressed in his kilts, will bless the Nautilus Memorial. A coin to commemorate the dedication of the Nautilus memorial has been cast and will be presented to all attendees and participants at the dedication.



*"It's hard sometimes, but as long as we remember them around the campfire, they will live forever."*

## Burial at Sea

by LtCol George Goodson, USMC (Ret)

In my 76th year, the events of my life appear to me, from time to time, as a series of vignettes. Some were significant; most were trivial.

War is the seminal event in the life of everyone that has endured it. Though I fought in Korea and the Dominican Republic and was wounded there, Vietnam was my war. Now 42 years have passed and, thankfully, I rarely think of those days in Cambodia, Laos, and the panhandle of North Vietnam where small teams of Americans and Montangards fought much larger elements of the North Vietnamese Army. Instead I see vignettes: some exotic, some mundane:

\*The smell of Nuc Mam.

\*The heat, dust, and humidity.

\*The blue exhaust of cycles clogging the streets.

\*Elephants moving silently through the tall grass.

\*Hard eyes behind the servile smiles of the villagers.

\*Standing on a mountain in Laos and hearing a tiger roar.

\*A young girl squeezing my hand as my medic delivered her baby.

\*The flowing Ao Dais of the young women biking down Tran Hung Dao.

\*My two years as Casualty Notification Officer in North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland.

It was late 1967. I had just returned after 18 months in Vietnam. Casualties were increasing. I moved my family from Indianapolis to Norfolk, rented a house, enrolled my children in their fifth or sixth new school, and bought a second car.

A week later, I put on my uniform and drove 10 miles to Little Creek, Virginia. I hesitated before entering my new office. Appearance is important to career Marines. I was no longer, if ever, a poster Marine. I had returned from my third tour in Vietnam only 30 days before. At 5'9", I now weighed 128 pounds - 37 pounds below my normal weight. My uniforms fit ludicrously, my skin was yellow from malaria medication, and I think I had a twitch or two.

I straightened my shoulders, walked into the office, looked at the nameplate on a Staff Sergeant's desk and said, "Sergeant Jolly, I'm Lieutenant Colonel Goodson. Here are my orders and my Qualification Jacket."

Sergeant Jolly stood, looked carefully at me, took my orders, stuck out his hand; we shook and he asked, "How long were you there, Colonel?" I replied "18 months this time." Jolly breathed, "you must be a slow learner Colonel." I smiled.

Jolly said, "Colonel, I'll show you to your office and bring in the Sergeant Major. I said, "No, let's just go straight to his office." Jolly nodded, hesitated, and lowered his voice, "Colonel, the Sergeant Major. He's

been in this job two years. He's packed pretty tight. I'm worried about him." I nodded.

Jolly escorted me into the Sergeant Major's office. "Sergeant Major, this is Colonel Goodson, the new Commanding Officer. The Sergeant Major stood, extended his hand and said, "Good to see you again, Colonel." I responded, "Hello Walt, how are you?" Jolly looked at me, raised an eyebrow, walked out, and closed the door.

I sat down with the Sergeant Major. We had the obligatory cup of coffee and talked about mutual acquaintances. Walt's stress was palpable. Finally, I said, "Walt, what's the hell's wrong?" He turned his chair, looked out the window and said, "George, you're going to wish you were back in Nam before you leave here. I've been in the Marine Corps since 1939. I was in the Pacific 36 months, Korea for 14 months, and Vietnam for 12 months. Now I come here to bury these kids. I'm putting my letter in. I can't take it anymore." I said, "OK Walt. If that's what you want, I'll endorse your request for retirement and do what I can to push it through Headquarters Marine Corps."

Sergeant Major Walt Xxxxx retired 12 weeks later. He had been a good Marine for 28 years, but he had seen too much death and too much suffering. He was used up. Over the next 16 months, I made 28 death notifications, conducted 28 military funerals, and made 30 notifications to the families of Marines that were severely wounded or missing in action. Most of the details of those casualty notifications have now, thankfully, faded from memory. Four, however, remain.

### MY FIRST NOTIFICATION

My third or fourth day in Norfolk, I was notified of the death of a 19 year old Marine. This notification came by telephone from Headquarters Marine Corps. The information detailed:

\*Name, rank, and serial number.

\*Name, address, and phone number of next of kin.

\*Date of and limited details about the Marine's death.

\*Approximate date the body would arrive at the Norfolk Naval Air Station.

\*A strong recommendation on whether the casket should be opened or closed.

The boy's family lived over the border in North Carolina, about 60 miles away. I drove there in a Marine Corps staff car. Crossing the state line into North Carolina, I stopped at a small country store / service station / Post Office. I went in to ask directions.

Three people were in the store. A man and woman approached the small Post Office window. The man held a package. The Storeowner walked up and addressed them by name, "Hello John. Good morning Mrs. Cooper."

I was stunned. My casualty's next-of-kin's name was John Cooper!

I hesitated, then stepped forward and said, "I beg your pardon. Are you Mr. and Mrs. John Cooper of (address.) The father looked at me - I was in uniform - and then, shaking, bent at the waist, he vomited. His wife looked horrified at him and then at me. Understanding came into her eyes and she collapsed in slow motion. I think I caught her before she hit the floor.

The owner took a bottle of whiskey out of a drawer and handed it to Mr. Cooper who drank. I answered their questions for a few minutes. Then I drove them home in my staff car. The store owner locked the store and followed in their truck. We stayed an hour or so until the family began arriving.

I returned the storeowner to his business. He thanked me and said, "Mister, I wouldn't have your job for a million dollars." I shook his hand and said; "Neither would I." I vaguely remember the drive back to Norfolk. Violating about five Marine Corps regulations, I drove the staff car straight to my house. I sat with my family while they ate dinner, went into the den, closed the door, and sat there all night, alone.

My Marines steered clear of me for days. I had made my first death notification.

#### THE FUNERALS

Weeks passed with more notifications and more funerals. I borrowed Marines from the local Marine Corps Reserve and taught them to conduct a military funeral: how to carry a casket, how to fire the volleys and how to fold the flag.

When I presented the flag to the mother, wife, or father, I always said, "All Marines share in your grief." I had been instructed to say, "On behalf of a grateful nation...." I didn't think the nation was grateful, so I didn't say that. Sometimes, my emotions got the best of me and I couldn't speak. When that happened, I just handed them the flag and touched a shoulder. They would look at me and nod. Once a mother said to me, "I'm so sorry you have this terrible job." My eyes filled with tears and I leaned over and kissed her.

#### ANOTHER NOTIFICATION

Six weeks after my first notification, I had another. This was a young PFC. I drove to his mother's house. As always, I was in uniform and driving a Marine Corps staff car. I parked in front of the house, took a deep breath, and walked towards the house. Suddenly the door flew open, a middle-aged woman rushed out. She looked at me and ran across the yard, screaming "NO! NO! NO! NO!"

I hesitated. Neighbors came out. I ran to her, grabbed her, and whispered stupid things to reassure her. She collapsed. I picked her up and carried her into the house. Eight or nine neighbors followed. Ten or fifteen later, the father came in followed by ambulance personnel. I have no recollection of leaving.

The funeral took place about two weeks later. We went through the drill. The mother never looked at me. The father looked at me once and shook his head sadly.

#### ANOTHER NOTIFICATION

One morning, as I walked in the office, the phone was ringing. Sergeant Jolly held the phone up and said, "You've got another one, Colonel." I nodded, walked into my office, picked up the phone, took notes, thanked the officer making the call, I have no idea why, and hung up. Jolly, who had listened, came in with a special Telephone Directory that translates telephone numbers into the person's address and place of employment.

The father of this casualty was a Longshoreman. He lived a mile from my office. I called the Longshoreman's Union Office and asked for the Business Manager. He answered the phone, I told him who I was, and asked for the father's schedule.

The Business Manager asked, "Is it his son?" I said nothing. After a moment, he said, in a low voice, "Tom is at home today." I said, "Don't call him. I'll take care of that." The Business Manager said, "Aye, Aye Sir," and then explained, "Tom and I were Marines in WWII."

I got in my staff car and drove to the house. I was in uniform. I knocked and a woman in her early forties answered the door. I saw instantly that she was clueless. I asked, "Is Mr. Smith home?" She smiled pleasantly and responded, "Yes, but he's eating breakfast now. Can you come back later?" I said, "I'm sorry. It's important. I need to see him now."

She nodded, stepped back into the beach house and said, "Tom, it's for you."

A moment later, a ruddy man in his late forties, appeared at the door. He looked at me, turned absolutely pale, steadied himself, and said, "Jesus Christ man, he's only been there three weeks!"

Months passed. More notifications and more funerals.

Then one day while I was running, Sergeant Jolly stepped outside the building and gave a loud whistle, two fingers in his mouth... I never could do that and held an imaginary phone to his ear.

Another call from Headquarters Marine Corps. I took notes, said, "Got it." and hung up. I had stopped saying "Thank You" long ago.

Jolly, "Where?"

Me, "Eastern Shore of Maryland. The father is a retired Chief Petty Officer. His brother will accompany the body back from Vietnam."

Jolly shook his head slowly, straightened, and then said, "This time of day, it'll take three hours to get there and back. I'll call the Naval Air Station and borrow a helicopter. And I'll have Captain Tolliver get one of his men to meet you and drive you to the Chief's home."

He did, and 40 minutes later, I was knocking on the father's door. He opened the door, looked at me, then looked at the Marine standing at parade rest beside the car, and asked, "Which one of my boys was it, Colonel?"

I stayed a couple of hours, gave him all the information, my office and home phone number and told him to call me, anytime.

He called me that evening about 2300 (11:00PM). "I've gone through my boy's papers and found his will. He asked to be buried at sea. Can you make that happen?" I said, "Yes I can, Chief. I can and I will."

My wife who had been listening said, "Can you do that?" I told her, "I have no idea. But I'm going to break my ass trying."

I called Lieutenant General Alpha Bowser, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Atlantic, at home about 2330, explained the situation, and asked, "General, can you get me a quick appointment with the Admiral at Atlantic Fleet Headquarters?" General Bowser said, "George, you be there tomorrow at 0900. He will see you. I was and the Admiral did. He said coldly, "How can the Navy help the Marine Corps, Colonel." I told him the story. He turned to his Chief of Staff and said, "Which is the sharpest destroyer in port?" The Chief of Staff responded with a name.

The Admiral called the ship, "Captain, you're going to do a burial at sea. You'll report to a Marine Lieutenant Colonel Goodson until this mission is completed."

He hung up, looked at me, and said, "The next time you need a ship, Colonel, call me. You don't have to sic Al Bowser on my ass." I responded, "Aye Aye, Sir" and got the hell out of his office.

I went to the ship and met with the Captain, Executive Officer, and the Senior Chief. Sergeant Jolly and I trained the ship's crew for four days. Then Jolly raised a question none of us had thought of. He said, "These government caskets are air tight. How do we keep it from floating?"

All the high priced help including me sat there looking dumb. Then the Senior Chief stood and said, "Come on Jolly. I know a bar where the retired guys from World War II hang out."

They returned a couple of hours later, slightly the worst for wear, and said, "It's simple; we cut four 12" holes in the outer shell of the casket on each side and insert 300 lbs of lead in the foot end of the casket. We can handle that, no sweat."

The day arrived. The ship and the sailors looked razor sharp. General Bowser, the Admiral, a US Senator, and a Navy Band were on board. The sealed casket was brought aboard and taken below for modification. The ship got underway to the 12-fathom depth.

The sun was hot. The ocean flat. The casket was brought aft and placed on a catafalque. The Chaplain spoke. The volleys were fired. The flag was removed, folded, and I gave it to the father. The band played "Eternal Father Strong to Save." The casket was raised slightly at the head and it slid into the sea.

The heavy casket plunged straight down about six feet. The incoming water collided with the air pockets in the

outer shell. The casket stopped abruptly, rose straight out of the water about three feet, stopped, and slowly slipped back into the sea. The air bubbles rising from the sinking casket sparkled in the sunlight as the casket disappeared from sight forever.

The next morning I called a personal friend, Lieutenant General Oscar Peatross, at Headquarters Marine Corps and said, "General, get me out of here. I can't take this anymore." I was transferred two weeks later.

I was a good Marine but, after 17 years, I had seen too much death and too much suffering. I was used up. Vacating the house, my family and I drove to the office in a two-car convoy. I said my goodbyes. Sergeant Jolly walked out with me. He waved at my family, looked at me with tears in his eyes, came to attention, saluted, and said, "Well Done, Colonel. Well Done." I felt as if I had received the Medal of Honor.

---

### **Pentagon Backtracks on TRICARE Fee Hikes**

In 2007 and 2008, Defense Secretary Robert Gates shocked the military community by proposing major TRICARE fee increases that would have:

Raised annual TRICARE Prime enrollment fees from the current \$460 to as much as \$1,000 a year or more  
Raised the TRICARE Standard deductible from \$300 to as much as \$1,100 or more and added a new Standard enrollment fee

Introduced means-testing by basing fee levels on retiree income

Raised TRICARE retail pharmacy copayments from \$3/\$9/\$22 for generics/brand/nonformulary medications to \$15/\$25/\$45

MOAA and The Military Coalition strongly objected to those increases as grossly out of line with the "up front" premiums of service and sacrifice already contributed by retired military families. Congress agreed with us, and rejected the proposed hikes.

For the first two years of the Obama administration, Secretary Gates proposed no TRICARE fee hikes, but in recent months he had been telling every audience he spoke to that the FY2012 budget would propose "modest" TRICARE fee increases for "working-age retirees".

MOAA was among those who anticipated that meant a renewed effort to implement hikes comparable to those he proposed previously.

But when Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) Dr. Clifford Stanley called a meeting with MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan, Jr. (USN-Ret) and other association leaders on Feb. 14 to outline the TRICARE fee proposals included in the new FY2012 Defense budget, the bottom line of his briefing was, "We listened."

The new plan entails no changes for TRICARE Standard or TRICARE For Life, and no means-testing of fees. It

proposes what Stanley described as "modest, gradual" changes in TRICARE Prime enrollment fees, and would exempt military disability (chapter 61) retirees and survivors from those changes.

Specifically, the plan calls for:

Raising the 2012 Prime enrollment fees by 13% -- from \$230 single/\$460 family per year to \$260/\$520 (survivor and chapter 61 retiree fees would remain at current rates)

Indexing those fees in 2013 and beyond to a medical inflation index (based on a measure of Medicare cost growth projected to rise at 6.2% per year)

Changing TRICARE pharmacy copays as follows (changes indicated in parentheses):

	Retail	Home Delivery (Mail Order)
Generic\$5	(+\$2)	Zero (-\$2)
Brand Name	\$12 (+\$3)	\$9 (no change)
Nonformulary	\$25 (+\$3)	\$25 (+\$3)

MOAA is encouraged that the new proposal avoids the draconian TRICARE fee increases proposed in the past. While some areas warrant additional adjustment, it makes a better effort to recognize that career military people pre-pay a very large price for their lifetime health coverage up front - through decades of service and sacrifice.

MOAA strongly supports the proposed elimination of co-pays for use of generic drugs via TRICARE's Home Delivery (mail-order) program and appreciates that survivors and medically retired personnel would be exempt from the proposed Prime increases.

However, MOAA objects strongly to the proposed annual adjustment methodology that would inappropriately tie fee increases for nondisabled military beneficiaries aged 38 to 64 to healthcare cost growth for a more elderly and disabled Medicare population.

MOAA believes, in recognition of military beneficiaries' lengthy service and sacrifice, any such adjustments should be capped closely to the percentage increase in their military compensation.

MOAA also continues to believe there are many opportunities for streamlined operations and pursuit of additional cost-saving measures within the Department of Defense to improve service to beneficiaries at lower cost.

In the weeks and months ahead, we look forward to working with DoD and congressional leaders to address these and other concerns in ways that help ensure long-term stability of military health care programs in ways that are fair for both military beneficiaries and the Nation.

## Nuclear Subs Taking Scientists on Secret Arctic Missions

SAN DIEGO -- To avoid detection and take advantage of the ultimate polar route during classified missions, U.S. Navy nuclear submarines regularly cross under the Arctic. So why not do a little science on the way? Starting this year, civilian scientists from the Navy's San Diego-based Arctic Submarine Laboratory will join the crews on otherwise secret passages under the ice to gather data on phenomena that range from the effects of global warming to how changes to the Arctic could help or threaten American shipping interests.

A memorandum of agreement signed last year by the commanders of U.S. submarine forces in the Atlantic and Pacific, the chief of naval research and the National Science Foundation outlines a plan to capitalize on the underwater fleet's ability to go where scientists could otherwise never venture.

The program is called Science Ice Expeditions, or Scicex, and builds on a previous series of hybrid missions in the 1990s.

All scientific undertakings and equipment on board the subs will have to conform to the security requirements of the planned submarine operations. The vessels' commanding officers will retain "absolute authority to modify or delete portions of the science plan" if they threaten to interfere with the subs' safety or missions, according to the document.

And though the scientific data will be shared with the public after the missions, starting and ending points of information gathering will be tailored "to avoid any inference of the classified aspects of the submarine's mission."

Moreover, "all data will be afforded proper protection if determined to be classified due to extenuating circumstances or existing national security guidance." But the Navy is willing to let the subs take an extra two or three days to cross under the polar ice cap to allow the scientists to collect data and even water samples.

Bill Smethie, a chemist at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University and participant in the program, said the military is expecting to get a lot out of it as well.

"The Navy seems to be quite interested in the changes that are occurring in the Arctic," Smethie told the science journal Nature. "They're interested because they need to know what capabilities they'll need to operate in the Arctic in the future and what U.S. assets need to be protected, such as shipping, which may become more prevalent."

For the scientists, the submarine access is an invaluable opportunity, especially as a means of tracking the effects of climate change.

"We need to develop time series to see how things are changing in the Arctic, and things are changing quite

rapidly now," Smethie said. "As the ice is melting back, it's changing the freshwater content. And it's changing the biology as more water becomes open during the summer."

From the subs, the scientists will be able to launch expendable conductivity, temperature and depth sensors that gather a host of data on salinity, nutrients, chemical composition and sea life as they fall through the water. The original Scicex program included five unclassified one-shot scientific missions between 1995 and 1998 that were specifically aimed at studying the ice canopy, Arctic waters and seafloor. That program ended when the Sturgeon-class nuclear subs used for the missions were decommissioned.

The new Scicex, with one or two science missions a year initially anticipated, is open-ended.

---

### 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 Julian Villegas or Carl Chinn.

Make sure you have one for "when you get challenged"!

Buy several for great gifts!



---

### U.S. Navy Eyes SSBN Improvements

The U.S. Navy sees its SSBN(X) ballistic missile submarine replacement fleet basically as an improved model of the current SSBN boats leveraging Virginia-class sub advancements and refined construction methods.

"The initial plan is for 16 tubes, a new-design reactor plant, [and] similar antennas and design to the Trident- and Virginia-class submarine," Rear Adm. Joe Mulloy, deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for budget, said Feb. 14 during his briefing on the service's fiscal 2012 budget proposal.

He added: "We know general specs. But the specifics of the power and weight and layout of all that will now

happen as a result of this money being in the 2012 budget. We can rapidly move down that path."

There would be no advanced torpedo room, he says, but the Navy does hope to improve the sub's stealth aspects. Both the Virginia- and Seawolf-class boats are acknowledged as the stealthiest submarines in operation. The service is requesting about \$1.1 billion to jump-start the Ohio-class SSBN replacement program, compared to a \$672 million baseline for the current fiscal year. The Navy could wind up paying up to \$40 billion to buy the entire replacement fleet in decades to come, and total program costs could reach \$100 billion by some industry estimates.

The service has always been keen on submarine program funding. Subs were the single greatest Navy vessel expense between 1999 and 2009, according to an Aerospace DAILY analysis of contracting data provided by the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting. The Navy spent about \$11.4 billion for subs during those years, excluding nuclear reactor expenses, the analysis shows.

In addition to the SSBN(X) plan, the Navy also is requesting about \$5 billion to buy another two Virginia-class submarines in fiscal 2012 — and plans to keep buying two more annually over the next five years. While the Navy has not yet come out with the exact specifications for the SSBN(X), the service is starting related work for the program.

"Four contractors are building tubes that will be shipped to Electric Boat and assembled into a tube pack," Mulloy says. "They will not go on the first submarine, but the idea is [to figure out] how do you build and weld, because it's a different-design submarine."

Instead of the traditional missile-sub building process — build the missile compartment, cut holes and drop tubes — the Navy and contractors will take advantage of the modular construction now used for the Virginia-class boats. "You're going to build tubes in four-packs that are fitted to hull pieces that will then be added into the cylinders that are assembled," Mulloy says.

"The idea is I can assemble in pieces and build," Mulloy adds, citing the "dramatic savings" Electric Boat has seen in building subs using its facility in Quonset, R.I.

---

### DFAS 1099-R Update 01

Military retirees and annuitants' 1099R tax statements were available on myPay starting Dec. 14, 2010 and were mailed to retirees by Jan. 15, 2011. If you did not receive a copy of your 1099R, it may be because DFAS does not have your correct address on file. Before requesting a duplicate 1099R, verify your address using myPay, or by calling 800-321-1080. To obtain a duplicate use one of the following three methods:

myPay - You can view, print or save a copy using your myPay account by following the below steps. If you have trouble accessing myPay, call 866-671-5031. Customer support is available M-F 07-1830 EST. You can also view videos that explain how to use myPay at <http://www.dfas.mil/rapay.html> .:

1. Go to <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx> .
2. Enter your Login ID on the home page.
3. Enter your password on the virtual keyboard when prompted.
4. Access your 1099R from the "Main Menu" by clicking on the "Tax Statement" option.
5. View, print and save your tax statements. If you have trouble reading the graphic version, click on the "Text Version" link.

Automated Phone System:

1. Call R&A Pay at 800-321-1080.
2. Select option 4 to request a 1099R 24 hours a day, seven days a week, without waiting to speak to a customer service representative.
3. Enter your Social Security Number using your touch-tone keypad when prompted.
4. You should receive your 1099R in 7 to 10 business days. [Note: If you have exhausted the above options or prefer to speak to a customer service representative, call Tue-Fri between 07-1900 EST and select option 0. In the event that call volumes are high and they are unable to serve you as quickly, you may experience a "courteous disconnect," indicating you are either being routed back to the self-service option, or requesting that you call back at another time. If this occurs, understand that this is a required measure to ensure that callers with high priority needs are properly supported. ]

Written request:

1. Write us a short letter requesting a new copy of your 1099R. Include your name, Social Security Number, mailing address, signature and date or complete a Request for 1099R form (DFAS 9190).
2. Fax your request to 800-469-6559 or mail it to:  Retirees: Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Retirement Pay, P.O. Box 7130, London, KY 40742-7130  Annuitants: Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Annuitant Pay, P.O. Box 7131 London, KY 40742-7131
3. You should receive a copy of your 1099R in about two weeks.

## Do You Remember the Pueblo?

Can you believe there was a time when we caved to the communists of North Korea and let them capture, beat and torture some of our sailors? This weekend marks the 42nd anniversary of one of the most shameful episodes in recent United States history. And I doubt if the mainstream media will contain a single word about it. Several years ago, my youngest son and I were watching a program on the History Channel when the program's narrator mentioned the capture of a U.S. Naval vessel by Communist North Korea back in 1968.

"That didn't really happen, did it, Dad?" my son asked me. When I replied that it had, he was stunned. "Do you mean to tell me that North Korea seized one of our ships, beat and tortured the crew for most of a year, and we didn't do anything about it?"

I was shocked that my son had never heard of the USS Pueblo before and embarrassed that the answer to his question was "yes." Somehow, that whole sorry episode had been blotted out of the history books. I wonder how many of you reading these pages now know the story. How about your children or grandchildren? Do any of them remember the Pueblo?

Happily, I could do better than just issue a mealy-mouthed reply about how this country "protested vigorously." At the time, many of us did everything possible to get our leaders to act. When the sailors were finally released I helped arrange a nationwide speaking tour for one of them, radio officer Lee R. Hayes. Lee gave hundreds of speeches and participated in thousands of media interviews. Here's part of the story he told. The ship that became the Pueblo was originally launched in 1944 as Army cargo ship FS-344. In 1966 it was transferred to the Navy and renamed the Pueblo. It began service as a light cargo ship, but in 1967 it was redesignated GER-2 and was converted into an intelligence-gathering ship. (GER stood for General Environmental Research, a euphemism for spying operations the ship would conduct on behalf of the National Security Agency.)

In January 1968, the Pueblo was ordered to patrol off the east coast of communist North Korea to conduct surveillance of Soviet naval activity in the Tsushima Straits. The ship was also ordered to eavesdrop on any electronic transmissions it could intercept that originated in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as that communist captive called itself.

Within hours of reaching its destination, the Pueblo was harassed by Soviet or North Korean vessels. On Jan. 21, the ship reported that a modified Soviet-style sub-chaser passed within two miles of its bow. The next day, two apparent fishing trawlers from North Korea (which were probably Soviet spy ships) passed within 25 yards of the Pueblo. Any seaman reading this will know that this

dangerously close encounter had to have been intentional.

On Jan. 23, a sub-chaser accosted the Pueblo and demanded to know its identity. In response, Commanding Officer Lloyd M. Bucher ordered that the U.S. flag be raised. The North Korean vessel then ordered the ship to stand down or be fired upon. Instead, the Pueblo followed the orders it had been given back in Japan and tried to leave the area. It could not outrun the sub-chaser, however. Shortly thereafter, three torpedo boats appeared on the horizon and joined in the chase. The attackers were subsequently joined by two MiG-21 jet fighters. Soon, a fourth torpedo boat and a second sub-chaser appeared on the horizon.

The North Koreans pulled alongside the Pueblo and tried to board the ship. When Bucher ordered the Pueblo to take evasive maneuvers, two North Korean vessels opened fire on the ship. Suddenly, cannon fire and machine-gun bullets were raking the vessel.

The Pueblo was ill prepared to withstand such an attack. Its armament consisted of two Browning .50-caliber machine guns — hardly a match for rockets and missiles. Moreover, the machine guns were wrapped in cold-weather tarpaulins and the ammunition for them was stored below decks.

As the cannon fire continued, Bucher gave the order to “stop engines” and signaled the North Koreans that he would comply with their orders. He also ordered his own crewmen to begin destroying as much of the sensitive materiel as possible that was on board the ship.

The North Koreans ordered the Pueblo to follow them to the mainland. At first, the ship complied. But again — following orders it had been given in Japan — the ship stopped before it crossed the 12-mile limit into North Korean waters.

When this happened, the North Koreans once again opened fire on the ship. This time, one sailor — Fireman Apprentice Duane Hodges — was killed. North Korean soldiers from a torpedo boat and sub-chaser boarded the Pueblo. Our sailors were blindfolded and had their hands tied behind their backs. Once they were helpless they were beaten and prodded with bayonets.

In a subsequent inquiry we learned that the Pueblo had been in radio contact with Naval security back in Japan throughout the incident. The Seventh Fleet command told Bucher that help was on the way. It turns out this was a lie; no jets or ships were ever dispatched to come to the aid of the ship.

No one at Seventh Fleet headquarters was willing to give the order to try to rescue the Pueblo. The decision was bucked back to Washington — first to the Pentagon, then to the White House. By the time then-President Lyndon Johnson was informed of the situation, the Pueblo was in North Korean waters. It was decided that any rescue attempt would be too dangerous. So the world’s most powerful military kowtowed to one of the

weakest. I’m still ashamed of our leaders’ pitiful response.

There is considerable controversy about where the Pueblo was when it was captured. Bucher and the other ship’s officers subsequently testified under oath that at no time did the Pueblo enter within 12 nautical miles of the North Korean coast. This is the generally accepted limit of claims for territorial waters. At the time, however, the North Koreans claimed a 50-nautical-mile sea boundary. No one disputes that the Pueblo was within 50 miles of the Korean coast.

In any case, once the ship was within 12 miles of North Korea, the Pueblo was boarded again — this time by some high-ranking North Korean officials. (Interesting that they waited until they could be certain the ship would not be attacked by U.S. forces. They undoubtedly were aware that, if the situation were reversed, Korean dictator Kim Il-Sung and his minions wouldn’t hesitate to blow one of their own ships to smithereens, killing all hands on board, rather than suffer the embarrassment of capture.)

They took the Pueblo into port at Wonsan on the eastern coast of North Korea. Then they took the 82 surviving U.S. crewmembers to a prisoner-of-war camp somewhere in the interior of the country. The men were starved and repeatedly tortured. (Their treatment got worse when someone realized that crewmen were secretly giving them “the finger” in staged propaganda photos.)

Bucher was singled out for particularly harsh treatment, including facing a mock firing squad. He refused to buckle when faced with his own death, but finally relented and agreed to sign a confession when his captors threatened to murder his crewmen, one by one, in front of him.

Since his captors couldn’t read English, Bucher was ordered to write his own confession. None of the North Koreans picked up on a play on words that Bucher included in his “confession.” He wrote, “We paeen the North Korean state. We paeen their great leader, Kim Il Sung.” (Read aloud, “we paeen” sounds remarkably like “we pee on.” Get it? Good for you, Commander.)

During the course of 1968, the men were moved to a second prisoner-of-war camp, while negotiations for their release dragged on. Finally, in December of that year — 11 long months after the Pueblo was captured — the United States issued a written apology to North Korea, acknowledged that the ship was spying and promised that it would not happen again.

On Dec. 23, 1968, the crew of the Pueblo was taken by bus to the demilitarized zone separating Communist North Korea from the South, where the men were permitted to walk across “the Bridge of No Return.” Bucher led the long line of crewmen, with his second-in-command, Executive Officer Lt. Ed Murphy, bringing up the rear.

Once the officers and crew reached safety in South Korea, the United States retracted its admission, apology and assurance.

In the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union we learned that the capture of the Pueblo was instigated by the Soviet Union, which very badly wanted a cryptographic machine that was on board. John Anthony Walker, an American traitor who provided the Soviets with thousands of secrets, had given them a key to deciphering our ciphers; now they needed to get their hands on an actual machine. Seizing the Pueblo provided that opportunity.

Bucher and the 81 other surviving officers and crew were ordered to face a Naval Court of Inquiry, which concluded by recommending that Bucher and Lieutenant Steve Harris (the officer in charge of the intelligence equipment on board the ship) be court-martialed for their "dereliction of duty." As far as I can determine, there was no action taken against the Naval officers in Japan who lied to Bucher about sending help.

Secretary of the Navy John H. Chafee rejected the Naval Court's recommendation, saying that, "They have suffered enough." Bucher was never found guilty of any malfeasance and remained on active duty until his retirement. He died in 2004, partly as a result of complications from the injuries he received while he was a prisoner of war in North Korea.

During the inquiry there was some debate about whether or not Bucher acted within his orders. He admitted that part of his orders were "not to spark an international incident." But he and his officers were adamant that they had not come within 12 nautical miles of the Korean coast. (Today, of course, global positioning satellites could have confirmed the ship's location within a matter of inches.)

Some critics argued that the ship should have left the area after the first incident. But such encounters were considered routine at the time. U.S. forces frequently tested the territorial limits of Cold War opponents. If such actions caused the enemy to mobilize its military, there would be even more information to gather.

In October 1999, the Pueblo was moved from Wonsan on the east coast of North Korea to Nampo on the west coast. The trip required moving the vessel through international waters for several days, as it was towed around the coast of South Korea. Although the U.S. military had to have been aware of the Pueblo's location, no effort was made to capture or sink the ship. To the best of my knowledge, there was never a court of inquiry — or any embarrassing questions at a White House press conference — about this failure to act.

The Pueblo subsequently was taken to Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, where it is now the most popular tourist attraction in the city. Thousands of visitors have been shown the ship's secret communications room, still in a partially disassembled state from when the ship was

seized. A popular souvenir of a visit, I'm told, is a photograph taken while a tourist stands behind the machine gun mounted at the rear of the ship. Yes, the same guns that remained wrapped in a tarpaulin during the attack and seizure.

To this day, the USS Pueblo remains a commissioned vessel of the United States Navy. It is sad that it has been abandoned by our leaders. But it would be tragic if its story was forgotten by our citizens.

Until next time, keep some powder dry.



#### **Four Chaplains Day**

On Feb. 3, 1943, the United States Army Transport Dorchester was bound for an American base in Greenland as it pushed through the frigid North Atlantic waters with 902 servicemen aboard. But the ship did not arrive at its destination — a German U-boat fired a torpedo that struck the Dorchester's starboard side and exploded in the boiler room. Within 20 minutes the ship sank and 668 men perished, along with four chaplains of different faiths: Reverend George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic). The four chaplains put the lives of others before their own by directing frightened servicemen to lifeboats, distributing life jackets, and putting their own life jackets on young soldiers. In all, 230 of the 904 men aboard the ship were rescued. Life jackets offered little protection from hypothermia, which killed most men in the water. The water temperature was 34 °F (1 °C) and the air temperature was 36 °F (2 °C). By the time additional rescue ships arrived, "...hundreds of dead bodies were seen floating on the water, kept up by their life jackets.

On December 19, 1944, all four chaplains were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross. The Four Chaplains' Medal

was established by act of Congress on July 14, 1960, and was presented posthumously to their next of kin by Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker at Ft. Myer, Virginia on January 18, 1961. The chaplains were also honored with a stamp, issued in 1948, and by an act of Congress designating February 3 as "Four Chaplains Day." Because of their bravery, every year, American Legion posts nationwide remember Four Chaplains Day with memorial services. Services this year will be held on Sunday, Feb. 6. To request information on how to conduct a Four Chaplains Memorial Service, contact Michael Novak (mnovak@legion.org) of the Americanism and Children & Youth Division at (317) 630-1212. The inspiring chaplains are remembered in many places in stained glass portraits and memorials. In Bottineau North Dakota they are memorialized in a small, four-columned cement arch, shading an upright cement slab to which is bolted a bronze plaque depicting the Dorchester going down. Above the doomed ship, in the cloud of steam and smoke exploding out of it, the giant faces of the chaplains can be seen, looking stern and saintly. Above their heads are the words: "For God And Country."



---

### District Commander Nominations

From Bill Andrea ESRD

SER DC's: I will begin accepting nominations for the position of District Cdr commencing March 1st. and run thru April 30th. Voting will be conducted from June 1st thru June 30th, and the winner will be announced September 1st. Please pass this message on to your bases for their participation.

Have all nominations sent to me at:

wcandrea@bellsouth.net or snail mail to: W.C. Andrea,  
P.O. Box 17856, West Palm Beach, Fl., 33416

Bill Andrea, ESRD

### 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 regular voting members 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. Each member must have at least thirty (30) days to cast his ballot. The appropriate Regional Director shall conduct the District Elections.

C. Any member in good standing within a District may nominate any other member within the same District in good standing for District Commander of that District providing that:

- a. The nomination is accompanied by a letter from the Nominee indicating his willingness to accept the nomination and willingness to serve if elected
- b. The Nomination Letter includes details of the nominee's qualifications in less than one hundred (100) words.

D. Any District Commander vacancy shall be filled by the appropriate Regional Director appointment, normally within ninety (90) days.

### Section 7. DISTRICT COMMANDERS: Duties / Job description

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. 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. 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.