



April 2005  
Volume 11 - Issue 4

**What's "Below Decks"  
in the Midwatch**



<http://perch-base.org>

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**Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol**

**APRIL ETERNAL PATROLS**

<b>USS Pickeral</b>	<b>SS177</b>	<b>April 3, 1943</b>	<b>74 men</b>
<b>USS Snook</b>	<b>SS279</b>	<b>April 8, 1945</b>	<b>84 men</b>
<b>USS Thresher</b>	<b>SSN593</b>	<b>April 10, 1963</b>	<b>129 men</b>
<b>USS Grenadier</b>	<b>SS210</b>	<b>April 22, 1943</b>	<b>4 men (as POW's)</b>

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING - April 16, 2005**  
**American Legion Post #62**  
**11001 N. 99th Ave.**  
**Starts at 1200 hours**  
**Lunch provided - Donation Suggested \$3**

The Perch Base USSVI cannot support itself financially on the dues collected from its members. There have been no successful and ongoing plan since the base was formed to produce any other steady and effective source of income. Therefore, the Base has relied on charitable cash donations from members -- usually given at membership renewal -- for its survival. Listed below are those charitable givers, known as the Booster Club.

## *2005 Booster Club*

<b>Ben Acosta</b>	<b>Jerry Allston</b>	<b>Ken Anderson</b>	<b>Kirby Anderson</b>
<b>Ted Asbell</b>	<b>Gary Bartlett</b>	<b>Ken Becker</b>	<b>Joe Bernard</b>
<b>Dick Bernier</b>	<b>Ron Beyer</b>	<b>Ed Brooks</b>	<b>Jim Edwards</b>
<b>Harry Ellis</b>	<b>Chuck Emmett</b>	<b>Ray Graybeal</b>	<b>Chuck Greene</b>
<b>Billy Grieves</b>	<b>Kelly Grissom</b>	<b>Bob Hanson</b>	<b>Dave Harnish</b>
<b>Ed Hawkins</b>	<b>Glenn Herold</b>	<b>Dave Herrington</b>	<b>Les Hillman</b>
<b>Davy Jones</b>	<b>Ron Kloch</b>	<b>Bob Lacendorfer</b>	<b>Doug LaRoch</b>
<b>George Marions</b>	<b>Dale Martin</b>	<b>Terry Martin</b>	<b>Bob May</b>
<b>Denny McComb</b>	<b>Ray McKinzie</b>	<b>Paul Miller</b>	<b>Roger M. Miller</b>
<b>Roger R. Miller</b>	<b>Tim Moore</b>	<b>Tom Moore</b>	<b>Joe Mullins</b>
<b>Bon Nance</b>	<b>Jim Nelson</b>	<b>Jim F. Newman</b>	<b>Jim W. Newman</b>
<b>Joe Otreba</b>	<b>Ray Perron</b>	<b>George Petrovitz</b>	<b>Royce Pettit</b>
<b>Clair Prokupek</b>	<b>Scott Prothero</b>	<b>Robbie Robinson</b>	<b>Stan Rud</b>
<b>Frank Rumbaugh</b>	<b>Ray Schaeffer</b>	<b>Rick Simmons</b>	<b>Wyne Smith</b>
<b>Jim Strassels</b>	<b>Adrian Stuke</b>	<b>Jim Thomson</b>	<b>Tom Tilley</b>
<b>Jim Wall</b>	<b>Dick Weber</b>	<b>Jerry Yowell</b>	<b>John Zaichkin</b>
<b>Mike Haler</b>	<b>Darrell Lambert</b>	<b>Nick Pappas</b>	<b>Kenney Wayne</b>
<b>Ed Wolf</b>	<b>Roger Cousin</b>	<b>Alex Martin</b>	<b>John Cash</b>
<b>Roger Cousin</b>	<b>Joe Errante</b>	<b>Tom Fooshee</b>	<b>Mike Haler</b>
<b>Steve Hough</b>	<b>Mike Keating</b>	<b>Darrell Lambert</b>	<b>Burt Loftin</b>
<b>Allen Miller</b>	<b>Nick Pappas</b>	<b>Ernie Plantz</b>	<b>Ray Samson</b>
<b>John McVeigh</b>	<b>Mike Simpson</b>	<b>Joseph Hawkins</b>	



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# Sailing Orders



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## NEXT REGULAR MEETING

April 16, 2005

American Legion Post #62

11001 N. 99th Ave.

Starts at 1200 hours

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## Base Picnic

We have booked a location (Area # 4 A & B) in the White Tanks Regional Park. This is in the north west Phoenix area, Olive Ave. west form Loop 303.

It is reserved in our Base's name for the April 30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Map and directions to come later.

COST PER PERSON \$10.00

Vice Commander Stan Reinhold will cater the food.

Payment cut-off date will be April 16th which is our meeting date.

NO BEER OR WINE WILL BE ALLOWED, IN THE OPEN.

(Laws and Insurance)

Payment May be Made to Any on List Below.

Tim Moore ~ 602-574-3286

Stan Reinhold ~ 623-536-6547

Bob Gilmore ~ 623-202-6256

Glenn Herold ~ 480-235-0084

Ray Samson ~ 623-815-9247



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## From the Wardroom

Dear Shipmates,

A year and a half ago, I didn't know the USSVI, Arizona Pigboaters or Perch Base even existed. A year ago last month, Glenn asked me if I would consider the nomination and filling in as vice Commander if elected. In a moment of weakness I said I would and I haven't quite yet decided whether or not I should thank Glenn. A year ago this month, you approved that nomination. And now, barely out of my "rookie year" with the organization, you have elected me as Base Commander. It is extremely gratifying for me and I am deeply honored to be able to serve. I hope that I am worthy of the position as my predecessor has left big shoes for me to fill.

In addition to me, you elected two other new officers, Stan Reinhold, Vice Commander and Jim Denzien as Treasurer. Along with you, I want to personally congratulate these two fine gentlemen on their election and look forward to working with them in the future. Also, we all need to thank the other officers, board members and volunteers for their past contributions and continued support; as they continue to contribute so very much to the success of the Perch Base.

I am only just beginning to find out what lies below the surface and what it takes to maintain a zero bubble and keep our base on an even keel. However I do know this. Although I spent only a little over four years on active duty, I did learn that it takes the entire crew, not just the commander and the officers, to run an effective and efficient operation. This is an exciting opportunity for me and I want to humbly ask the support and participation of our entire membership to get actively involved in Perch Base. You have accomplished a great deal over the past years and I firmly believe there is a great deal more we can do to promote the growth of Perch Base, our other Arizona bases, the USSVI and continue to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades who remain on eternal patrol. I look forward to the challenge.

Fraternally Yours,

Tim Moore, commander, Perch Base USSVI

## March Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the members of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #62 Peoria, AZ at 1300 hours, 19 March 2005. The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander – Glenn Herold.

Shipmate Joe Bernard led the members in a prayer of Invocation. The members were then led in the "Pledge of Allegiance" followed by a reading of the "Purpose of the Organization", Dedication, a Moment of Silence for our departed shipmates and the "Tolling of the Boats" ceremony for submarines lost during the month of March.

According to the sailing list, there were 31 persons at the meeting. Guest shipmate Charles Farley (Past Base Commander and member of the Southern Colorado Base) was introduced and welcomed by the members.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the February meeting be approved as published in the Base Newsletter, "The MidWatch." The motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer, Robert May, reported the Base's financial status as of the first day of March, 2005.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Base Vice Commander – had nothing new to report.

Base Chief of the Boat – Bob Gilmore announced that the construction for the new American Legion Post 62 has been slow to proceed due to the rains. Bob also announced that he will most likely be vying for election as Second vice Commander for the American Legion Post. It was suggested that all the post members of Perch Base cast a vote for Bob.

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Base Chaplain – Howard Doyle was not at the meeting.

Membership Chairman – Ramon Samson reported that membership renewals were at the 93% level. Only 10 members are left to renew their USSVI/Perch Base membership.

Ship's Storekeeper – Jim Nelson announced that the ship's store has several new items for sale, and encouraged everyone to view the merchandise and purchase items from the store.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Glenn Herold announced that the fund raising efforts involving "Yard Sales", etc. is being put "on hold" until the Fall.

Shipmate Tim Moore has taken the lead on identifying a storage location for the Perch Base Parade Float.

Glenn announced that the Annual Perch Base Picnic would take place on April 30 and the regular monthly meeting will take place at the American Legion Post on April 16. Those that plan to attend the picnic should notify Tim Moore by email or telephone or Ray Samson via the email link on the Perch Base web site. The charge for attending the picnic is \$10 per person.

As previously announced, Perch Base will be participating in the Yarnell Daze Parade on May 21. The May meeting would normally be held on that day and plans are being made to combine the event and that meeting. Further information will be forthcoming.

Efforts are underway to get Marshall Tremble to attend a Perch Base meeting in October and the efforts to draft the author, Clive Cussler, as an Associate Member of Perch Base are continuing.

Dave Harnish reported that his trip to California to attend the District 10 meeting on March 2 was particularly gratifying. Dave suggested that anyone traveling near the San Joaquin National Cemetery should drop in and visit this site. The 65 Mondel Pines (one for each submarine lost since 1900) that the subvets planted line the entry to the cemetery and are a fitting memorial to the lost boats.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Glenn Herold announced that Gudgeon Base had offered to repay the \$500 in seed money Perch Base had donated to help the members form that new base. He also informed the members that the Board of Directors had voted to allow Gudgeon Base to donate the funds to the US Submarine Veteran's Charitable Foundation Scholarship Fund.

Dave Harnish – USSVI Western Regional Director – informed the members that efforts are in the mill to realign the Western Region by splitting up and creating new Districts. The proposal will be made to the USSVI Board of Directors at their Mid-Year meeting in May. If the realignment is approved and becomes effective, candidates will be needed for election of a commander for the new district that will then encompass Arizona.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Shipmate Joe Bernard took the floor and informed the members that the Submarine Veteran community lost one of its finest with the recent passing of Dale Martin. Dale was buried at Greenwood Cemetery. Joe asked that we include Dale and his family in our prayers.

Glenn Herold opened the floor for nominations to serve as officers to Perch Base. Glenn informed the members that current nominees for the officer positions included; Commander – Tim Moore; Vice Commander – Stan Reinhold; Treasurer – Jim Denzien; and Secretary – Ed Brooks. There were no additional nominations from the floor. Glenn then asked for a motion that the mentioned candidates, being the only nominees for their respective offices, be elected by acclamation. The motion was made and seconded and approved by voice vote.

USSVI Western Regional Director - Dave Harnish asked the newly elected officers of Perch Base and the Perch Base Auxiliary to assemble front and center. He then administered the "oath of office" to the officers.

### **50/50 DRAWING**

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Ed Hawkins.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

All the outstanding business being concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans - Perch Base be adjourned. The motion carried by voice vote.

The closing prayer was offered by Joe Bernard and the meeting was adjourned at 1343 hours.

Signed: Edgar T. Brooks, Base Secretary

## From Beyond the Wardroom Perch Base SubVettes

I guess we are an old seasoned base, now that we have held our second election. Thank you all, so much, for your vote of confidence in our newly elected officers.

OUR MAY BABIES ARE:  
Layne Rumbaugh – 5/19  
LeeAnn Brooks – 5/20  
Linda Wall – 5/28  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL

Please come prepared to volunteer to be our next Membership Chairperson, at our next meeting, which will be held at **Der Kaffee Kuchen, 9814 W Peoria, at noon on April 16.**

All my best to you and yours,

Nancy Nelson, president, SubVettes of Perch Base

### SUBVETTES MEETING MINUTES March Meeting

The fifteenth monthly meeting of the SUBVETTES of Perch Base was convened at Der Kaffee Kuchen, Peoria Arizona at 1255 hours on March 19, 2005. There were 15 members and one guest in attendance. The guest was Sarah Farley from Colorado Springs, Colorado. President Nancy Nelson led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. A prayer of invocation led by Sandy Bernard followed this.

Since the minutes of our last meeting were published in the MidWatch, Nancy asked that a motion be made to dispense with the reading. A motion was made by Sandy Bernard and was seconded by Dorothy Crider. The motion carried.

Treasurer Karen Emmett reported on the base's financial status as of February 28th, 2005. A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report as read. The motion carried.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Karen Emmett was unable to take over the Vice Presidency so Nancy Nominated Kay Harnish to return to the office. It was seconded by Jackie Hawkins and unanimously approved by the membership.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Nancy informed us that at the end of our meeting we were to join the men's meeting and be a part of the "Swearing in Ceremony" that would be conducted by the Western Regional Director, Dave Harnish.

The new Life Times Store needs donations of clothing and food. Please bring any Donations to the April meeting.

The work on the new Legion Hall was briefly discussed.

The slate of officers, up for election, was read by the chair of the Nominating Committee, Kathryn Otreba. The Slate was as follows:

President	Nancy Nelson
Vice President	Kay Harnish
Treasurer	Hiromi Povio
Secretary	Jackie Hawkins

These candidates were voted on and approved by the membership

Nancy then announced that she needed a volunteer for the appointed position of Membership Chairman. These duties include, maintaining the membership list, taking dues & writing receipts. She would also report at meetings the renewal and the new membership status. This was discussed and the members were asked to think about it and we would decide at the next meeting who would step up and serve.

(continued next page)

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Happy Birthday Wishes to:

Carolyn Newman	4/12
Muriel Grieves	4/16
Sandy Herrington	4/20
Jan Ballenger	4/22

We were reminded that the next meeting would be held on April 16th, 2005 at 1200 hours at this same location.

**DRAWING**

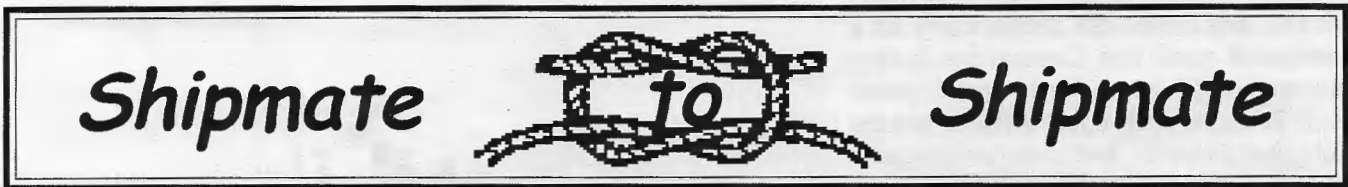
Brandi Hershey conducted the drawing for the ponchos donated. Hiromi Povio won the green and white poncho and Karen Emmett won the beige and brown one.

**ADJOURNMENT**

All the outstanding business being concluded, a motion was made by Marygrace Veek and seconded by Brandi Hershey that the meeting of the SUBVETTS of Perch Base be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 1318 hours.

Signed: Jackie Hawkins, secretary, SubVettes of Perch Base



*From Kay Harnish . . .*

My thanks to all for their warm welcome when I joined the other ladies at the March meeting for the installation of officers for Perch Base. It was completely unexpected but oh so appreciated!!!

I have received so many wonderful, beautiful cards and prayers (all of which have been read more than once) and all of which I consider such a blessing. I think Dave would agree with me that the best medicine ever is the power of prayer and the hugs and warmth of great friends and family!!!

Thank you all so very, very much,

Love,

Kay Harnish



The March meeting of the Gudgeon Base was held at the Moose Lodge in Prescott Valley on the 12<sup>th</sup> at 1100 hours. Sixteen members were present and we welcomed Bill Larime as a new member. The Base is investigating ways to serve as a group at the Bob Stump Veteran's Medical Center, and will have a presentation at our next meeting by a VA representative.

The Gudgeon Base is planning to participate in the Prescott 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Further details will be provided when they are available.

The Gudgeon Base thanks the Perch Base for the start up funds, \$500; they helped us with last year when we were getting started. We are now able to cover our own expenses and are in a position to return the \$500 with our thanks.



# Eternal Patrol April 8, 1945

Editors Note: *Less we forget, each month, one boat on eternal patrol will be highlighted in this newsletter. Sailors, rest your oars.*

## The Final Patrol

Lord, this departed shipmate with dolphins on his chest is part of an outfit known as the best.

Make him welcome and take him by the hand. You'll find without a doubt he was the best in all the land.

So, heavenly Father add his name to the roll of our departed shipmates still on patrol

Let them know that we who survive will always keep their memories alive.

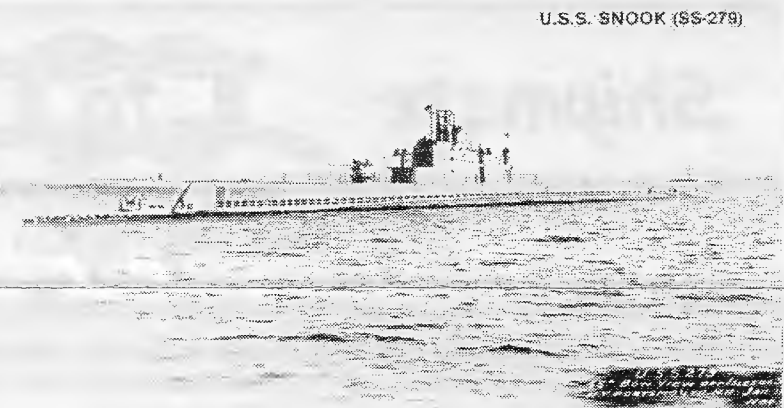
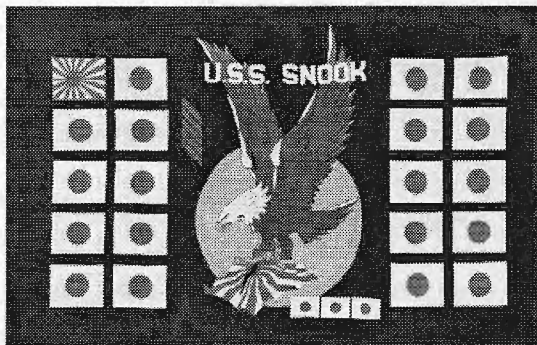


## U.S.S. Snook (SS-279) 82 men lost

SNOOK (Cmdr. J. F. Walling) departed Guam on March 25, 1945 in company with BURRFISH (SS 312) and BANG (SS 385) to carry out a coordinated patrol with Commander Walling commanding the group. They were to patrol Luzon Strait, the south coast of China, and the east coast of Hainan, and to perform lifeguard duties if so directed by dispatch. SNOOK returned to Guam for emergency repairs on March 27th, and departed on March 28th to rejoin her group. The patrol was SNOOK's ninth.

In accordance with her orders, weather reports were received daily from SNOOK as she proceeded westward until April 1st, when she was told to discontinue the reports. On the same date, SNOOK was directed to proceed westward to join a coordinated attack group under Commander Cassidy in TIGRONE. BANG and BURRFISH already had been assigned lifeguard stations, and were not available for the attack group as originally planned.

Although the last message received from SNOOK by shore bases was on April 1st, TIGRONE was in contact with her until April 8th. On April 9th, TIGRONE was not able to raise her by radio, nor was she ever able to afterwards. TIGRONE's inability to contact SNOOK may be explained by the fact that on April 10th SNOOK was directed to move eastward toward Luzon Strait, and on April 12th she was ordered to stand lifeguard duty for British carrier-based air strikes. Her position for this duty was in the vicinity of Sakeshima Gunto, about 200 miles east of northern Formosa. No acknowledgement for these orders was required. On April 20th, the Commander of a British carrier task force reported he had a place down in SNOOK's vicinity, but could not contact her by radio. SNOOK was ordered to search the area and to acknowledge these orders. When she failed to make a transmission, BANG was sent to conduct a search and rendezvous with SNOOK. When SNOOK had not appeared or made contact by May 16th, she was reported as presumed lost on her ninth patrol.



A number of enemy submarine contacts were reported in the vicinity of SNOOK's lifeguard station during the period in which her loss occurred. During April and May 1945, five Japanese submarines were sunk in the Nansei Shoto chain. The circumstances surrounding

(continued next page)



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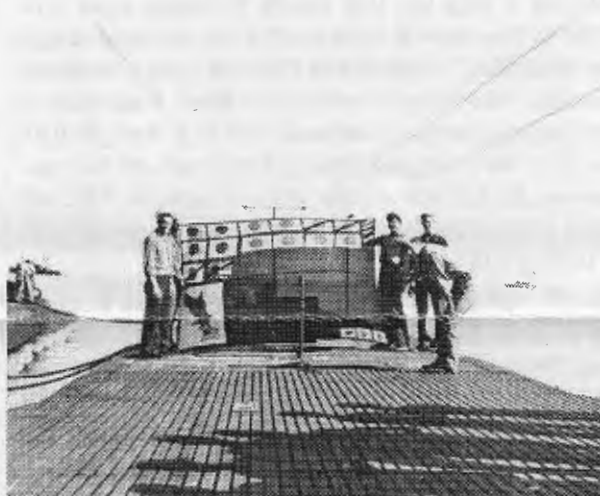
SNOOK's loss suggest the possibility that one of these lost submarines may have torpedoed her while she was surfaced during her lifeguard duties and it was not reported. It is known that such tactics were suggested to Japanese submarine commanders by their supporters.

No attacks had been reported by SNOOK prior to her loss on this patrol. She was, however, responsible for sinking 22 enemy ships, totaling 123,600 tons and damaging 10 ships, for 63,200 tons, on her eight patrols prior to her loss. Her first patrol was from mid-April to the latter part of May 1943, along the China Coast from Formosa to the Empire. She sank four freighters, a patrol craft, a sampan and a trawler.

In her second patrol, SNOOK covered the East China Sea area. She sank two freighters and damaged two large tankers. During her third patrol, SNOOK covered areas in both the Yellow and East China Seas, and sank a transport and a freighter, and damaged a sub chaser. Her fourth patrol was along the Empire trade routes to the south. Here she sank two freighters and damaged three more.


SNOOK went to the East China Sea again on her fifth patrol, and sank four freighters and a freighter- transport, while she damaged a fifth freighter. In the same area on her sixth patrol, SNOOK damaged one freighter. Her seventh patrol was in the Luzon Strait area and the northern South China Sea. She sank three freighters and damaged a fourth freighter and an unidentified vessel. SNOOK patrolled the Kurile region north of Japan on her eighth patrol, but contacted only three ships. Two were Russian and the other could not be attacked.

The actual whereabouts of SNOOK may have been discovered during a deep sea dive in 1995. The possibility exists that a U.S. submarine lies in about 350 meters of water off the coast of Iriomote island, the far southwest island in the Okinawa chain. During operations with an Okinawan company using a U.S. made "SCORPIO" ROV in 1995, a group of divers encountered a sonar contact with what appeared to be a metal structure, about 6 meters in girth and about 35 meters in length (exposed) at roughly an angle of 20-30 degrees. The sonar image of a large unexpected obstruction to the operations prompted the divers to command evasive maneuvers and avoid the area for the safety of the ROV.



The divers, thinking they would have another opportunity to work in the area at a later date, left the area and never returned to that site. Their ROV was lost in 1997 off Yonaguni Island, the last island belonging to Okinawa off the east coast of Taiwan. They were fairly certain that the object was a submarine, and quite possibly the SNOOK (SS-279). No further dives in the area were ever attempted.

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**Nautical Nuances**  
or,  
**Did You Know?**

The first rest camp for submarine crews was established at a military encampment at Malang, in the mountains of Java, 89 miles from Surabaya. Three days were allotted to submarine crews there in January 1942.

The first TDC (Mark 1) was installed in the Cachalot.

The Plunger was the first boat to sustain an "arduous" depth charge attack and survive.

In September 1936, Cdr. C. A. Lockwood Jr., assumed command of SubDiv 13 composed of the new boats Pike, Porpoise, Shark and Tarpon.

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# The Submarine

## Submarines of Today

### Navy To Explore Alternatives To Costly Nuclear-Powered Subs

By Geoff Fein, Defense Daily, 22 Mar 05

While the requirements for surface ships are changing from large deep water vessels to ships that can operate in the littorals with multiple functions, the Navy's submarine fleet is also going to have to change and more than likely that could mean a move away from nuclear powered subs, said a senior Navy official.

At present, the Navy is buying one Virginia-class submarine a year. Some officials questioned whether that number would be enough to meet combatant commanders' requirements, but Navy Secretary Gordon England said the sub fleet should be OK.

"[At] one a year we stay above 50 attack subs until 2018, so if we want to increase the rate we have ample time to do that," England told Defense Daily in a recent interview. "We have a multiyear in place if we want to increase nuclear subs; we have time to do that. [But] on the other hand Virginia-class submarines are very expensive, \$2.5 billion a copy. In my judgment, if we are going to grow the submarine force, it's not going to be by buying more large nuclear subs."

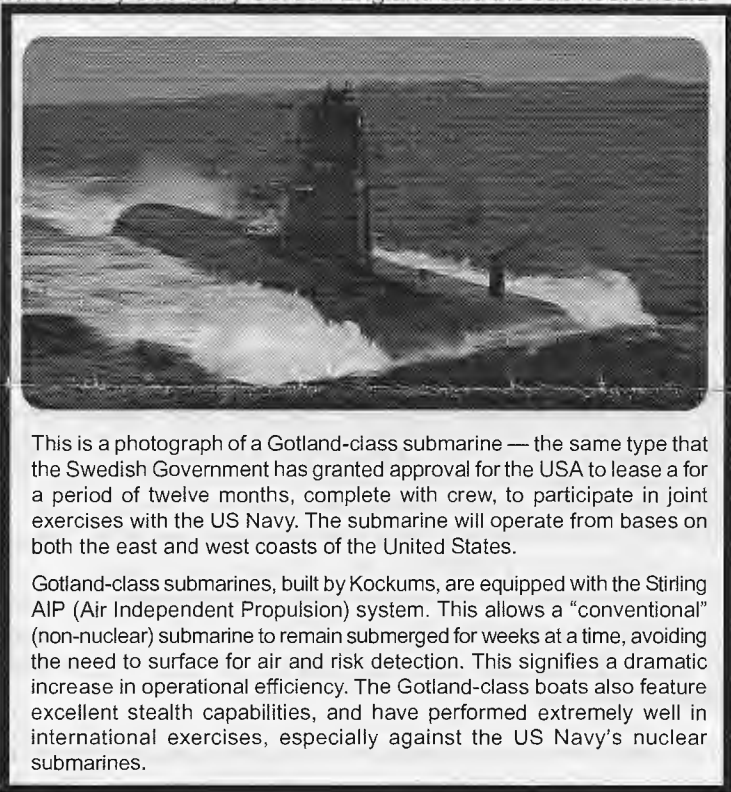
The long-term Navy budget calls for reducing the number of Virginia-class subs built, from two to one, per year. The program gets an increase of \$64.3 million in FY '06. The first cuts take place in FY '07 and one submarine is removed in FY '09 and FY '10.

The Navy has \$600 million across the Future Years Defense Plan to look at underwater superiority system that will include exploring other type of submarines.

[It] could be diesel, could be whatever the technology base brings forward. [It] could be Unmanned Underwater Vehicles. So it could be an array of systems, different kinds of systems," he added.

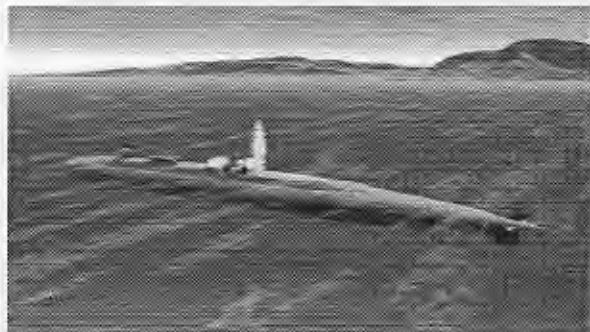
The Navy won't be giving up nuclear subs, England said. But the question is if the Navy decides it needs more subs then it can sustain with nuclear subs, England said. In his judgment, the Navy "needs to look at other kinds of submarines for less money."

And there are no plans to expand the current fleet of four SSGNs, Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines converted to nuclear powered guided missile and special-operations submarines, England added.



This is a photograph of a Gotland-class submarine — the same type that the Swedish Government has granted approval for the USA to lease a for a period of twelve months, complete with crew, to participate in joint exercises with the US Navy. The submarine will operate from bases on both the east and west coasts of the United States.

Gotland-class submarines, built by Kockums, are equipped with the Stirling AIP (Air Independent Propulsion) system. This allows a "conventional" (non-nuclear) submarine to remain submerged for weeks at a time, avoiding the need to surface for air and risk detection. This signifies a dramatic increase in operational efficiency. The Gotland-class boats also feature excellent stealth capabilities, and have performed extremely well in international exercises, especially against the US Navy's nuclear submarines.



## USS Tucson Submariners Earn Dolphins in Record Time

By Journalist 2nd Class Corwin Colbert, Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs  
Release Date: 3/14/2005 1:00:00 PM

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (NNS) — A USS Tucson (SSN 770) Sailor received his submarine warfare pin ("Dolphins") in the ship's record time of 30 days. Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Travis Massie received his dolphins while underway during a ceremony March 10.

"What makes this so unique is typically we wait at least until a Sailor's three month-period before we want them to qualify," said Senior Chief Electronics Technician Jeff Garrison, Tucson's chief of the boat (COB). "It usually takes about nine months for most Sailors."

Massie attributed his rapid qualification to working with 637-class training submarines in Charleston, N.C., before reporting to the boat.

"When I got here, I had to learn the systems I didn't know, and refresh on everything else," said Massie.



Massie is not the only submariner who has recently fast-tracked the qualification. In less than two months, Machinist's Mate Fireman John Deterding qualified, as well. According to the COB, these Sailors are not given any special treatment. They are getting the same intense training as everyone else.

"These two Sailors were exceptional. We do not dilute our program for anyone," Garrison said. "Submarine qualifications are a critical part of our mission. Our program is no different than the submarines' training program.

"We tested them along the way," he added. "We wanted to be sure that they were ready."

Deterding attributes his fast qualification to timing.

"I had perfect timing," he said. "I reported to the submarine in the middle of a six-month deployment. I was given my qualification card, and I started right away."

He also said he lost some sleep but was determined to wear his Dolphins.

"It wasn't a walk through the park," Deterding said. "I had some moments of frustration and anxiety, but I got through it."

There is more on the way for both of these submariners. Massie plans to prepare his package for dive school, and Deterding plans to prepare his package for Officer Candidate School.

When asked about special privileges or rewards for his effort, Deterding said, "Yeah, I got my Dolphins. That is the most rewarding thing you can get."

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*Do you have any information to share with shipmates? Contact the Midwatch Editor, Chuck Emmett at:*

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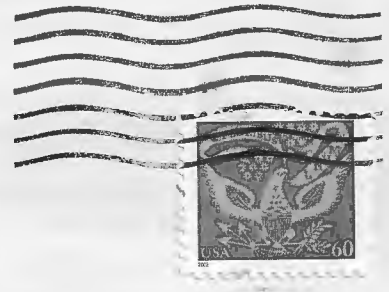
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