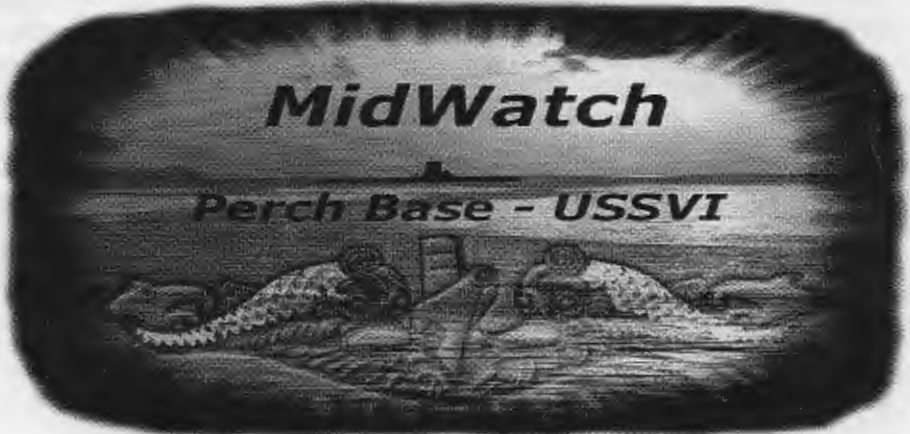




April 2006  
Volume 12 - Issue 4



<http://perch-base.org>

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in the Midwatch**

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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>

**NEW LOCATION!**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
April 15, 2006  
American Legion Post #105  
3534 W Calavar Rd.  
Phoenix, AZ

The Perch Base USSVI is not able to totally support itself financially on the dues collected from its members. There has, to date, 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 additional donations from members -- usually given at membership renewal -- for its survival. Listed below are those charitable givers, known as the Booster Club.



## 2006 Booster Club



<b>A. H. "Bob" Nance</b>	<b>Adrian Stuke</b>	<b>Allan Miller</b>	<b>Billy Grieves</b>
<b>Bradley L. Butler</b>	<b>Bruce "Robie" Robinson</b>	<b>Butch DeShong</b>	<b>Charles Greene</b>
<b>Dave Harnish</b>	<b>David Carpenter</b>	<b>Doug LaRock</b>	<b>Edgar Brooks</b>
<b>Chuck Emmett</b>	<b>Edward Hawkins</b>	<b>Edward J. Hawkins</b>	<b>Emil Schoonejans</b>
<b>F.J. "Ted" Asbell</b>	<b>Frank Rumbaugh</b>	<b>Gary Bartlett</b>	<b>George L. Crider</b>
<b>George Long</b>	<b>George Petrovitz</b>	<b>Glenn Herold</b>	<b>Harold C. Lister</b>
<b>Harry Heller</b>	<b>Jack R. McCarthy</b>	<b>James Denzien</b>	<b>James L. Wall</b>
<b>James W. Newman</b>	<b>Jerry N. Allston</b>	<b>Jim Nelson</b>	<b>John Cash</b>
<b>John Messersmith</b>	<b>John T. Hellem</b>	<b>John Zaichkin</b>	<b>Joseph Bernard</b>
<b>Kenneth Becker</b>	<b>Kenneth R. Anderson</b>	<b>L. A. "Mike" Keating</b>	<b>Lester Hillman</b>
<b>Mel Rycus</b>	<b>Paul V. Miller</b>	<b>Ray Samson</b>	<b>Raymond Marshall</b>
<b>Raymond Schaeffer</b>	<b>Reynaldo Atos</b>	<b>Richard Bernier</b>	<b>Richard Simmons</b>
<b>Robert A. Lancendorfer</b>	<b>Robert A. Sungy</b>	<b>Robert Lents</b>	<b>Robert May</b>
<b>Roger Cousin</b>	<b>Roger M. Miller</b>	<b>Roger R. Miller</b>	<b>Ron Kloch</b>
<b>Ronald Beyer</b>	<b>Royce Pettitt</b>	<b>Stanley Rud</b>	<b>Stephen Day</b>
<b>Stephen Hough</b>	<b>Terry Martin</b>	<b>W. Scott Prothero</b>	<b>William L. McNay</b>
<b>Wayne K. Smith</b>	<b>Wayne Braastad</b>	<b>WalterBlomgren</b>	<b>Tim Moore</b>
<b>Thomas Moore</b>	<b>Stan Reinhold</b>	<b>Ronald Zomok</b>	<b>Robert Hanson</b>
<b>Ray Lee Graybeal</b>	<b>Milton Magart</b>	<b>Mike Simpson</b>	<b>Larry M. Rankin</b>
<b>Kenny Wayne</b>	<b>Ken Schonauer</b>	<b>Joseph R. Mullins</b>	<b>Jim Thomson</b>
<b>Jerry Yowell</b>	<b>James Edwards</b>	<b>Jack S. Kimball</b>	<b>Harry Ellis</b>
<b>Edward Wolf</b>	<b>Davy Jones</b>	<b>Darrell Lambert</b>	<b>Clair E. Prokupek</b>
<b>Buck Crouch</b>			



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# Sailing Orders



**NEW LOCATION!**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**April 15, 2006**

**American Legion Post #105**

**3534 W Calavar Rd.**

**Phoenix, AZ**

(Located at the northwest corner of  
35<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Thunderbird, 1 block  
north of thunderbird)



**Special Guest Speaker!**  
**See the next page for a**  
**brief biography of our**  
**guest.**

## **GUEST SPEAKER – LT. COL. ALAN GAUGERT (USAF, Ret.)**

Alan Gaugert was born to Bob and Marcy Gaugert on Feb. 7 1951 in Staples, Minnesota, a farming community of 2,500. He grew up on his parent's farm 10 miles southwest of town doing usual farm chores. He had three sisters and one brother and attended a one room school house until the seventh grade. But, his home was under a military low level training route. This was when he decided to become a pilot.

1969-1973: He attended the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis on a ROTC scholarship. His first flight was on a C-124 from Minneapolis to Salt Lake City. He took pilot training Craig AFB, AL. During pilot draft for graduation, received orders to Nellis AFB 1975-77 as F-111 pilot-weapons-system officer. He upgraded to aircraft commander in 1977 and went to RAF Upper Heyford as F-111 Aircraft Commander/Instructor Pilot 1978-1982. He also attended USAFFWS and received a master's degree.

His biggest accomplishment — helped develop, test and field updated A/G escape maneuvers (maneuvers to safely separate from your own weapons explosions).

He retired in 1994 with 2,400 hours of fighter time in T-37, T-38, F-111, Models A/E/F, and F-5. F-15, F-16 Models A/B/C/D. Also 1,000 hours of instructor time.

He has been adjunct faculty at Estella Mountain Community College and Glendale Community College from 1994-97, where he instructed Microsoft Windows, Excel, Geography instructor – Physical and Cultural.

1997 to 2005: Senior Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor at Peoria High School.

Alan is married to Barbara Raitz from Hector, MN. They have three daughters, Melissa (attending University of New Hampshire), Roberta (attending California Lutheran University) and Elizabeth (attending Arizona State University).

### **NOTABLE PILOT EVENTS:**

- One forced landing due to engine failure (we all walked away - the plane was carted away)
- ATC "Well Done" award for landing disabled aircraft in pilot training (I should have ejected!)
- Been hit by lightning three times while airborne
- Lost parts of the airplane several times (Not my fault!)
- Double engine failure at 40,000' and 1.4 Mach (that's a good story)
- Only two (2) arrested landings (a sign of weakness for AF guys)
- Crossed the Atlantic twice (F-111 and F-16) – gets lonely up there
- No undersea boaten time!

## From the Wardroom

Dear Shipmates,

It's hard to believe but this is my first anniversary *From the Wardroom* article. It has been an interesting year, a good learning experience, and for me, personally rewarding. I've had the good fortune of participating two of my boat reunions, our National Convention and the Western Region Conference. In each of these events, I've made new friends, renewed old acquaintances and have enjoyed some memorable experiences.

Our base remains healthy. Even with the expansion of offshoot bases and other types of attrition, we are managing to maintain our membership level by attracting new members and acquiring some relocation memberships from other bases. Our membership level remains at 145 to 150 members which I believe has been consistent for the past two or three years. However, we should not get complacent and we need everyone's help in soliciting new members through our collective efforts. I know there are many other shipmates out there who do not know we exist and we need more creative ideas on how we can reach out, find them and recruit them.

We have faced the challenge of losing our meeting facility and through the efforts of shipmate Jim Edwards found a new facility that is willing to take care of our meeting needs as well as the needs of the SubVettes. It seems that whenever we are faced with situations which test our will and fortitude, we can always depend on shipmates to step up to the plate and meet these challenges, overcome any obstacles with which we are faced and move on in a positive direction.

We have experienced our share of joy and sorrow this past year. The simple joys of sharing quality time with friends and shipmates through meetings, reunions, and special events such as picnics, planned outings and holiday festivities. The special joy of experiencing friends and loved ones recover from serious illnesses and medical conditions. At times like these it is easy to see how truly blessed we really are. And then there is the extreme sorrow we have experienced in losing shipmates who have departed on eternal patrol . . . *sailors rest your oars*. They will most certainly be missed among our ranks but will never be forgotten. We must remain steadfast and vigilant in perpetuating their memory as well as those who have passed on before. This is, of course, an important part of our mission.

In closing, I want to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to the other officers, board members, SubVettes and shipmates who have provided me assistance in the pursuit of my duties. I could not adequately fulfill my responsibilities without this support group and I am sincerely grateful. Thank you all.

Fraternally,

Tim Moore, Commander, Perch Base USSVI

## March Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the members of the Arizona Submarine Veterans B Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #105 Phoenix, AZ at 1306 hours, 18 March 2006. The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander – Tim Moore.

The members were led in a prayer of invocation followed by the standard ceremonial opening.

According to the sailing list, there were twenty-nine (31) members at the meeting. The members welcomed new members George Debo and Bernie Fromm after which George and Bernie briefed the attendees on their submarine experiences.

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.

Jim Denzien reported the Base's financial status as of the first day of March, 2006. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried.

### **REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

**Base Vice Commander** – Stan Reinhold had nothing to report.

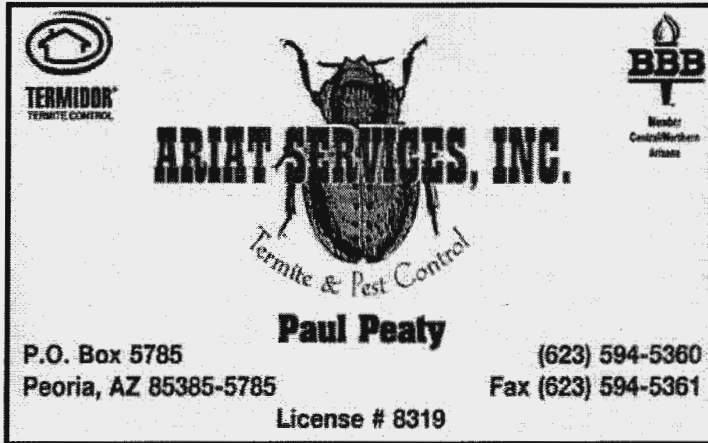
**Base Chief of the Boat** – Bob Gilmore had nothing to report.

**Base Chaplain** – Howard Doyle had nothing to report.

**Membership Chairman** – Ramon Samson reported that there are still members who have not renewed their membership for 2006. Ray also asked member that knew the delinquent members, to help contact them and find out the reasons they aren't renewing their membership.

**Webmaster** – Ramon Samson had nothing new to report.

**Newsletter Editor** – Chuck Emmett urged members who wanted information included in the news letter to get the information to him as early as possible and at least by Friday one week before the monthly meeting.



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**Ship's Storekeeper** – Jim Nelson reported that several special order items have still not been picked up.

Western Regional Director, Dave Harnish, reported that the Western Regional Conference held in Reno, Nevada was a notable success with 72 SubVets attending the regional meeting. Dave also indicated that there is a move afoot to hold the National Convention and Regional Conferences on alternating years. This would provide more incentive for members to attend the Regional meetings.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Tim Moore announced that the annual picnic is being held on March 25 at the Maricopa Live Steamers Railroad Park. The menu for the event will include BBQ and hot dogs. SubVets from the Base in Tuc-

son, White Mountain and Prescott have been invited and some are expected to attend.

Tim also announced that the Memorial Committee will be visiting the Perch Memorial to assess the problems with the torpedo pedestal so that corrective action can be taken prior to Memorial Day services.

Everyone was encouraged to explore different ways for contacting and recruiting submarine veterans in the area to invite them to become members of USSVI and Perch Base.

The members were reminded of the upcoming US SubVets WWII Southwest Regional Caucus to be held April 12 thru 14 in Laughlin, Nevada. Members that are able to attend are encouraged to support and help at the meeting to take on some of the chores associated with the meeting.

Tim also announced that Perch Base has made a \$500 donation to the USSVI Archive restoration project and challenged other bases to match the contribution in an effort to stimulate contributions to the project.

Glenn Herold – District 1 Commander – Glenn Herold announced that White Mountain Base will be holding a golf tournament to raise money for charitable purposes. Jim Klewett also has invited Perch members with RVs to camp at his home while attending the tournament. The RV accommodations at Jim's home are fully equipped and conveniently located.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Tim Moore announced that the annual Memorial Day Services will be held at the Phoenix National Cemetery followed by a SubVets service at the Perch Memorial. The ceremonies will take place on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Those attending should plan on arriving prior to 800 hours in order to find convenient parking near the ceremonies.

All the SubVets of WWII were recognized and applauded.

Perch Base will enter the Base Web Site and Newsletter in the national competition for 2006. Since the Base received first runner-up in these categories in 2005, everyone hopes the Base can win the first prize this year.



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Dave Harnish announced that nominations for election to the District One Commanders office are open until the end of May. Anyone knowing someone that would be a good candidate for the position should forward their names as nominees.

Dave Harnish moved that the slate of officers for 2006 be elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded and carried.

Frank Rumbaugh announced that there will be a special event organized to induct the 2006 Holland Club members. The particulars of the event will be announced or published in approximately 90 days.

Ray Samson announced that all but 10 members have renewed their membership in the Base.

Gudgeon Base Commander - Jack Messersmith announced that John Dudas of Gudgeon Base has managed to convince the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors to issue a proclamation recognizing April 11<sup>th</sup> for it being the 106<sup>th</sup> birthday of the U.S. Submarine Service. Gudgeon Base members will attend the meeting where the proclamation is to be read.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Tim Moore introduced a letter from J. K. Davis who was the former skipper of U.S.S. Perch SS-313 advising members that he has a collection of memorabilia from the Perch II including some pieces of teak from the deck.

It was announced that the guest speaker for the April meeting of the USAF Pilots Assoc. will be Col. Allan Gaugert.

Dave Harnish reported that Perch Base representatives will be attending the second Eagle Scout Court of Honor at 1330 hours on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Ray Samson announced that SubVet Wife Judy Wannamaker has donated two of Don's books "U.S. Navy" and "U.S. Submarines" to be raffled at the Base picnic.

Glenn Herold announced that Yuma's Barbel Base has managed to recruit Les Parsons (former skipper of the Trieste).

Tim Moore presented Chuck Emmett with a letter of commendation for the Perch Base Newsletter's being recognized for its quality and content. Perch Base was selected as First Runner-Up for the Best USSVI Newsletter of 2005.

### **50/50 DRAWING**

A drawing was held to award the winner with a book. The lucky winner was Jim Newman. The 50/50 drawing was also held and the winner was Frank Rumbaugh.

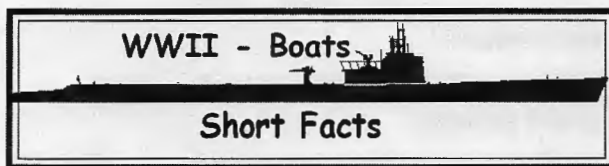
Prior to adjournment, a moment of silence was called for to commemorate the life of WWII SubVet Vern Speed who had recently departed on eternal patrol.

### **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.

The closing prayer was offered by Howard Doyle and the meeting was adjourned at 1401 hours.

Ed Brooks, Secretary, Perch Base



- The first Japanese casualty to American arms during WW-II was an aircraft shot down on Dec. 7th, 1941 by the USS Tautog.
- The first submarine force casualty suffered in WW-II was G. A. Myers, Seaman 2, shot through the right lung when USS Cachalot was strafed during the Pearl Harbor raid.
- The first "live" torpedoes to be fired by a Pearl Harbor submarine were fired by the USS Triton, four stern tubes fired on the night of Dec. 10, 1941.
- The first Pearl Harbor boat to be depth charged was the USS Plunger on Jan. 4, 1942, 24 charges.
- The first "down the throat" shot was fired by USS Pompano on Jan. 17, 1942.

## SUBVETTES MEETING MINUTES March

The meeting convened at the American Legion Post #105 along with the SUB VETS so we could see how the arrangement would work for us all.

Base Commander Tim Moore called the meeting to order at 13:05 hours.

Pledge of Allegiance conducted by Dave Harnish.

Opening prayer given by Howard Doyle.

We then moved to the game room which the men had set up for our meeting.

Our log shows we had eight in attendance and one guest, Marilyn Caldwell. We are so glad Linda brought her along.

Linda Wall made a motion that our January Minutes be accepted as printed in the Midwatch. Muriel Grieves seconded – motion carried.

In lieu of a meeting in February the ladies met for lunch at Taylor's Chowder House located next to Post 105 and enjoyed some good food, company, and conversation.

A treasurer report was not available.

I thank all who have been sending prayers to my daughter Laurie. She has finished her radiation and chemo treatments and is building up her strength for the hysterectomy in late April. The doctor is very positive about the results. Thank you all for your prayers and keep them coming. You are doing a wonderful job.

Although our chaplain could not be at the meeting we did happily learn that Joe Otreba, Kathryn's husband, was improving health wise.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Reminder of the annual picnic being held 3/25/06 at the railroad park at 43<sup>rd</sup> and Pinnacle Peak Rd. Always a fun event.

Our Short Term/Long Term Committee meeting held 1/25/06 was held at Dave and Kay's with the Submarine Ball hopes of 2007 being the main topic. Also the attire for same. ~~IT WILL NOT BE A BLACK TIE AFFAIR.~~

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Discussions were held as to whether we want to meet at the post or the Chowder House. Subject tabled until our meeting April 15, when we will take a vote.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Happy Birthday to our April babies

Carolyn Newman 4/12

Bonnie Cash 4/14

Muriel Grieves 4/16

Sandy Harrington 4/20

Jan Ballinger 4/22

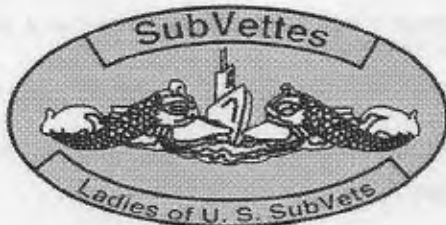
If there is anyone I missed please let me know.

Our next meeting (April 15, 2006) will be held at the Chowder House at 12:30 pm.

Linda Wall was the recipient of our raffle statuette.

Motion was made by Linda Wall to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Mary Denzien.

Meeting adjourned at 1322.







## Chaplain's Column



Gladys Lister has informed me of the following arrangements for husband, and our shipmate, Harold Lister:

A Memorial Service will be held for Harold at 1300 on Saturday, April 29, 2006, at the Hampton Inn and Suites, 14783 West Grand Ave., Surprise, AZ. 85372, and Phone: (623) 537-9122.

This is located at Reems Road and West Grand Ave, across from entrance to Sun City West and the Del Web Hospital.

If you are able to attend please let Dave Harnish know via email at:

[daveharnish@cox.net](mailto:daveharnish@cox.net)

Harold's ashes will be scattered by the family.

---

This is truly a good news/bad news message. First the bad news... Dave Harnish called me a short time ago and informed me that we lost our friend and shipmate Harold Lister. Harold's wife called Dave to let him know that Harold passed away yesterday. We all knew that he was going through some very difficult times, but one can never be totally prepared for this kind of loss. Please keep Harold and his family in your prayers.

I also got a call from Joe Bernard and he gave me the good news that Joe Otreba is on the mend and is improving considerably. He is out of the ICU and responding well to treatment for the pneumonia. As Joe Bernard said, the power of prayer is helping shipmate Joe Otreba and his family is grateful for this support.

Let's continue to remember Harold Lister, Joe Otreba and their families in our prayers and wish them well during these trying times. Thank you.

Tim Moore

CDR, Perch Base USSVI



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**White  
Mountain**



**Base**

### OUR CREED:

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



### Commander's Corner

#### Commanders Corner

Our meeting of March 18th, was very informative, we had Jack Latham, of Congressman Renzi's office he had just returned from Washington, DC where he had attended a meeting about Veterans Affairs. He brought us up to date on a lot of new things that are going on. He also told us that his wife was with the White Mountain Hospice office - so we asked him if he could set it up for her to come to a meeting and give us a talk about what they do.

Due to the weather we did not have the turn out we had hoped for, but all the beans and cornbread were well received and none was left.

Frank Nagel has received a check from Hunters Paradise to sponsor a hole at our Golf Tournament. GOOD WORK FRANK!!!!

My wife has donated one of her homemade quilts for the raffle at the Golf Tournament.

We have also received 3 golf shirts for the Tournament.

Please put the word out that this is a Handicap Tournament - that is important to some golfers as then they have a chance.

Next meeting is at the Heber American Legion on April 15th at 11 am.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!!!!

Fraternally yours,

Jim Clewett, Commander

### Meeting Minutes

Members present at the March 18th, 2006 meeting were Jim Clewett, Steve Day, Frank Nagle, Phil Caster, Armand Deprins, Dee LeFevre and Charles Jones

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM with an invocation by Phil Caster, the Pledge of Allegiance, reading of our creed, and tolling of the bell.

Jack Latham was welcomed as a guest.

Mr. Latham started by stating that Congressman Renzi will not support a bill with veteran's benefit cuts and firmly believes that veteran's have been short changed. The congressman opposes an increase in VA co-pay for vets under age 65. There

is a bill pending (HR4949) to give cost increase authorization to Congress (take the authority from the President). It is best to e-mail the congressman since regular mail goes through anthrax testing and takes 6 to 9 weeks. A VA enrollment fee and drug co-pay (cost increases to vets) have been stripped out of the budget. Mr. Latham encourages vets to enroll in VA before

you get a civilian job to avoid income limits on benefits. There is a push to bring back the old GI Bill with provisions to transfer benefits to spouse or child – no bill yet. Congress is looking at VA homeless vet program and care for wounded female vets. Last year the wounded warrior act was passed which pays for up to \$50,000 for a spouse or family member to travel to the hospital to help care for the wounded vet (coverage costs less than \$3 per month). HR 3352 increases criminal penalty (fines and jail time) to people who falsely claim to have won certain medals. The health care portion of the VA budget is discretionary funding and the Secretary of the VA determines the amount and there are discussions to have this changed to a specific percent. The American Legion has service offices to help fill out and submit paper work to the VA. Mr. Latham said that

vets should not assume that his office knows of all bills regarding vets, if you hear of one that you like or dislike, call them! The last item discussed was that there are 500,000 vets in Arizona and that we should communicate, organize, and work together in or own self interest.

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<b>Lyle Zaichkin</b> <i>Loan Officer</i>	<b>Charter Funding</b> 10575 North 114th St Suite#113 Scottsdale, AZ 85259
lzaichkin@charterfundingarizona.com	tel: 866-438-6500 X7312
IM: lyleloans@yahoo.com	fax: 866-492-7300
	mobile: 480-203-1829

Jack Latham  
1151 East Deuce of Clubs, Suite A  
Show Low, AZ 85901-4910  
(928) 537-2800  
(928) 532-5088 fax  
[jack.latham@mail.house.gov](mailto:jack.latham@mail.house.gov)

February minutes were read and accepted and there is \$1446.09 in the Treasury.

There were no committee chairs present. The base patches are on the way and should be at the next meeting. Thanks to Frank Nagle we have our second hole sponsor.

Jim asked if Dee could talk the restaurant in Young to donate a dinner for 2 as a raffle prize.


The April 15 meeting will be at 11:00 AM at the Heber American Legion and the May 20 meeting will be at 11:00 AM at the Snowflake Golf Course. The Golf Tournament will be June 10. The July meeting will be in Young after the Parade. August we will be holding the base elections. We will have the float at the Golf Tournament (display).

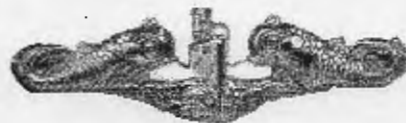
The National Convention will be September 4 through 10 in Little Rock.

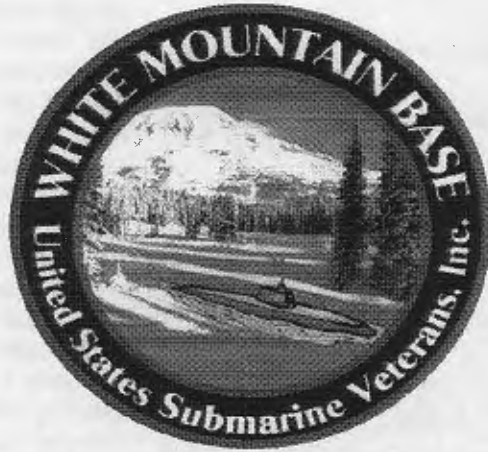
Please pay your dues.

There was no 50/50 drawing.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.

<b>Lois Keating</b> <i>Office Manager</i>

<b>590 N. Alma School Rd Ste. #11</b> <b>Chandler, AZ 85224 (480) 883-9822</b> <b>Queen Creek: (480) 988-2699</b>





# SCRAMBLE GOLF TOURNAMENT

## SNOWFLAKE GOLF COURSE

SAT. JUNE 10 @ 9:00 a.m.

\$60/PERSON INCLUDES GREEN FEES, CART & LUNCH

Prizes: Longest Drive (2), Closest to pin (2); Straight (2)

\$10,000 Hole-In-One Raffle Tickets: \$1 ea or 6 for \$5

Proceeds for White Mountain Safe House Tax deductible per Pub.557:501©(19)

Player#1 \_\_\_\_\_ handicap\_\_ Ph# \_\_\_\_\_ Player#2 \_\_\_\_\_ handicap\_\_ Ph# \_\_\_\_\_

Player#3 \_\_\_\_\_ handicap\_\_ Ph# \_\_\_\_\_ Player#4 \_\_\_\_\_ handicap\_\_ Ph# \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: Golf course will accept credit cards Ph# 928-536-7233

OR

Make checks payable to USSVI White Mtn. Chapter & mail to:

Ken Shade (Tournament Chairman)  
P.O. Box 475  
Roosevelt, Az 85545  
928-467-2813



The Regular Meeting of the Arizona SubVets – Gudgeon Base was held at the Moose Lodge, Prescott Valley, Arizona on 11 March 2006.

The meeting was opened at 1202 hours with a call to order by Base Commander, Jack Messersmith, in standard ceremonial form.

There were seven (7) members at the meeting.

The minutes from the February meeting were read by Base Secretary – Ed Brooks. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as read. The motion carried.

A report of the Base financial status as of March 1, 2006 was read by Base Treasurer – Ed Brooks. A motion was made and seconded to accept the financial report as read. The motion carried.

#### **REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

**Base Vice Commander** – Al Landeck reported that he is having difficulty making contacts relating to the Eagle Scout Programs Court of Honor for the Prescott area.

**Base WebMaster** – John Dudas reported that arrangements have been made for the Yavapai County's Board of Supervisors to have a proclamation read at their April 3 meeting recognizing April 11<sup>th</sup> as the 106<sup>th</sup> birthday of the U.S. Submarine Force.

John also reported that the USSVI Boat Sponsorship Program is still in limbo as far as determining which boats are in need of Base Sponsors.

There were no other reports by Officers and Committee Chairmen.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Jack Messersmith reminded members of the Western Region Conference being held in Reno, Nevada on March 6-8. Jack also reminded members to consider making their hotel reservations for the 2006 USSVI National Convention in Little Rock. The Peabody Hotel is the convention hotel.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

A motion was made and seconded to provide copies of the American Submariner to the VA Medical Center equivalent to a Boat Sponsorship. The motion carried.

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

The newly elected Base Officers for 2006 were assembled and Jack Messersmith performed the swearing in ceremony:

#### **50/50 DRAWING**

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Don Anders. Don donated his winnings to the base treasury.

#### **ADJOURMENT**

All the business before the group, having been concluded, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. After a closing prayer the meeting was adjourned at 1308 hours.

Ed Brooks, Secretary, Gudgeon Base



## United States Submarine Veterans Tucson Base

Chartered January 13, 2004

*Honoring our fallen submarine heroes is fundamental to our creed as members of U. S. Submarine Veterans (USSVI), which is, "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in pursuit of their duties while serving their country."*

*In our participation we remember those gallant submariners who made the supreme sacrifice while performing their duties with honor, integrity and courage and we demonstrate to our families and to the youth by our deeds that we honor them, we pay tribute to them, we salute them, as should all citizens of our great nation.*

**April 2006**

This Issue

From our last Meeting

Special Events

Projects

The Storekeeper Corner  
Of Interest

Naval History

Reminders

Next Meeting

Contact information:

Base Commander  
Gary Bartlett 722-0503

Vice Commander  
Dick Shoemaker 664-9702

Base Secretary  
Carle Blackwell 744-1834

Base Treasurer  
Roger Miller 742-0650

Base Email Address:  
ussvi\_tucson@yahoo.com

Group Web Page:  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ussvi\\_tucson/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ussvi_tucson/)

From our last Meeting

The progress and funding of the sub project were discussed. The 770Club and the WWIISubVets are our two major contributors at this time. A raffle of our WWII Fleet Boat Print was approved by the members present to raise funds for the base.

Printing services are now available again. We are getting raffle tickets and brochures made. We still need volunteers to head up committees for; Event Planning, Charity Services, and Fundraising Ideas. Please contact me if you would like to help in making our club fun.

Special Events

Sidewinders Game to benefit the USS Tucson **HAS NOT BEEN** scheduled for May 16. I will post the new date when I receive it.

**CARE Fair** – last weekend in July. I will post the date when they ask for volunteers.

If you like to submit an idea for a club event then please contact me.

If anybody has researched this let me know: **The Saint-Petersburg Submariners' Club** of St-Petersburg, Russia has invited all submariners worldwide to their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their submarine force in Moscow in May.

### **Projects**

The Submarine Project is being chaired by Carle Blackwell. Please contact him to participate in the planning of the biggest event to hit Tucson since the commissioning of the USS Tucson. The form for the bow has been constructed by Compositesch. The trailer cost and fabrication is being researched.



### **The Storekeeper Corner**

Shirts with the USSVI logo and our base name are available for order at \$21.00 each. If you have not purchased a USSVI license plate or calendar then call Brad to order yours before they are gone.

### **Of interest**

The BC and VC went to the Perch Base annual picnic up at the Railroad Museum north of Phoenix. A few Gudgeon Base members were there also. BC Tim Moore hosted the outing and was the MC. VC Stan Reinhold prepared the most appetizing food. Stan is a professional chef and we had a first class meal. A raffle of several prizes was conducted after the meal. We all enjoyed the tour of the train operations and maintenance areas given by Dave Harnish.;



Most of us toured the layout onboard one of the many trains pulled by large locomotives that were in operation. I guess kids never grow up, only their toys get bigger. An added feature was the model railroader's swap meet and the guest appearance of the Horseless Carriage Auto Club which brought in a few of their beautiful restored antique cars. See the group site for additional pictures.

### **Naval History**

In April of 1914, the US Navy attacks Veracruz, Mexico because they did not give us a 21-gun salute in apology for illegally retaining 9 men for half an hour while refueling in Tampico, Mexico. Lt. Patrick N. L. Bellinger took an AB-3 flying boat for a reconnaissance flight over Veracruz harbor. This was the first combat flight by a military aircraft.

### **Reminders**

Contact Roger to update your membership for 2006.

### **Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be on April 15 at the VFW Post 549.



# Western Region Conference

## March 8, 2006

### Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order, at 0906 hours, by the Western Regional Director David Harnish and opened in the standard ceremonial fashion with a prayer of invocation, the pledge of allegiance, and a moment of silence for those on eternal patrol.

Dave Harnish presented his opening remarks followed by an introduction of the District Commanders, Western Region Base Commanders, National Officers, and Committee Chairs. National Senior Vice Commander – Jim Foote was asked to make some opening remarks to the attendees, which he did.

Veterans' Affairs Chairman – John Dudas briefed the attendees on current events affecting all veterans.

Constitution & By Laws Committee Chairman and Executive Director, USSVI Charitable Foundation – Ed Brooks also briefed the attendees on Base organization to effect fund raising for the Charitable Foundation as well as the schedule for submitting Proposed Amendments to the USSVI Constitution and By Laws.

Convention Committee Chairman – Don Brown briefed the attendees on the process and plans in the works for future national conventions, including an effort to explore the possibility for holding national conventions every other year in consonance with the national election cycle.

Dave Harnish informed the attendees of the scheduled events associated with the conference including a formal tolling the boats ceremony before the banquet dinner.

Dave called everyone's attention to the websites available to all SubVets as well as their Internet URLs. He also reviewed the dates and locations for the National Conventions through 2010.

Under the subject of Communication, Dave stressed that everyone should use every means available to establish and maintain dialogs with the officers and committee chairs of our organization. E-mail sometimes doesn't provide the appropriate medium for good communication. When that happens, don't hesitate to use the telephone.

It was suggested that bases explore means to provide financial support for Base Commander's or his representative to attend Regional/District Conferences and National Conventions. These events are essential to the operation of an effective organization at the Base level.

Nominations are being accepted for the District Commander slots in the region. Those that have the names of qualified candidates should submit them as soon as possible to the Regional Director.

Base Commanders should look around their area and see if there isn't a potential for spinning off new bases in the area. Other Bases have done so without a loss in membership. Often times the members that join the new bases maintain membership in the original base. It is a synergistic process. Bill Dornik of Mare Island Base commented that their Base has spun off 5 new bases in the Bay Area.

Dave explained the benefits that have derived from the women's SubVette organization. In the beginning, there was a women organization in Florida and the second one in Arizona. Now they are being formed in many of the Bases. The addition of the women's group as an adjunct to the regular base organization is extremely beneficial.

Dave reviewed the special awards/recognition programs administered by the USSVI Awards Committee. These include:

The Joe Negri Award that goes to an individual that has distinguished himself.

The Robert Link Award that is the National Commander's Award and can be awarded to an individual, a group, or a Base.

The Golden Anchor Award that is awarded to a member for exceptional recruiting success.

The Silver Anchor Award that is awarded to a member for outstanding program support.

The Merit Award is awarded to a member, base, or group.

A discussion ensued with regard to the number of awards presented at the national convention banquet. Rocky Rockers indicated that he would like to see the awards made at the Annual Business Meeting instead of the Banquet.

Leif Larson felt the whole program should be reviewed and revised to be more meaningful.

Lon Schmidt indicated that the program for handing out the awards was far too long; the number of awards was excessive the communications regarding the awards is very poor.

Bill Vincent indicated he would like to see the rules surrounding the national awards be published in the American Submariner.



Dave reminded the members present that applications for scholarships must be obtained by March 15 and those that are submitted must reach the Scholarship Chairman by April 15.

Dave reminded members that anyone contributing at least \$100 to the Scholarship Fund would receive a special embroidered patch.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Dave briefed the members on the USSVI Eagle Scout Program whereby Bases can work with a Scout Troop by preparing a certificate and present it along with a patch to Scouts as they are advanced to the Eagle Scout rank. He encouraged the Base Commanders to designate an individual to act as a Point of Contact for the program and seek out Scout Troops in their area. Interface with the Troup leaders and get an invitation to participate in the ceremonies associated with the Eagle Scout advancement. This program can be modified to honor JROTC or Sea Cadets or any group such as that.

It was announced that the Western Region Patch has been placed on hold until a decision is reached regarding the addition of another District to the Western Region. There is an up-front expense of several hundred dollars to have the patch produced and with the new District an uncertainty, it is prudent to delay its creation.

Barry Cummings (BC Patches) announced that he would make the patch with no setup fees and make it available to Base Storekeepers so that there would be no up-front expense to the Regional Director.

Everyone was informed that the Boat Sponsorship Program is now under the purview of Bill Lee. This appointment should help the program to get up and going again. Dave also informed members that funds going to the Boat Sponsorship Program are to be sent to the American Submariner Editor – Michael Bircumshaw payable to USSVI-BSP-AS.

Information was provided regarding the National Archives Project. There will be an extensive effort to capture all the records, currently stored in paper form, on CDs and reduce the need for large storage space. Contributions are being requested from all the Bases in the range of \$100 from larger bases and \$50.00 from smaller bases or more to fund the effort. It was suggested that bases look at holding raffles, 50/50 drawings, and other projects to raise these funds. The project may take several years and funds will be solicited from bases and the national treasury. Contributions to the project should be sent to the National Office designated for the USSVI – Archive Project.

Everyone was asked to explore ways to recruit new members to our organization, especially active duty submariners. San Diego Base and Scamp Base participated in the ComSubPac Sailor of the Year Awards. The Bases presented a Jacket and Hat from USSVI. Such events help get the organization's name in front of the active duty sailors.

Dave Harnish informed the members of the Bull Head Base Project in Albuquerque developing a submarine memorial. Anyone wishing to contribute to the project should contact Henry Espinosa, Base Commander Bullhead Base.

A site for the National Library has been designated for Little Rock, Arkansas. A committee chairman has also been appointed to oversee the library's establishment and funding. Ron Martini will act as National Library Committee Chairman, so anyone that wants to donate submarine related books should contact Ron.

Rocky Rockers announced that the USSVI 2006 Calendars are being offered at \$1 each in quantities of 25.

Dave Harnish indicated that the 2007 Convention Cruise to Alaska is more than half booked at this time. Anyone not yet signed up should do so right away.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

SVWWII member and USSVI member Frank Kenyon took the floor and gave a presentation relating to efforts that are being made by WWII members to create a group similar to the Holland Club whereby members of SubVets WWII and USSVI members could become joint members without having to merge the two main organizations. Frank indicated that he and others were planning to approach attendees at the SW Caucus – SubVets WWII in April, with a proposal.

Don Brown – Corvina Base offered attendees raffle tickets for a drawing that will take place at the National Convention in Little Rock. The winners will receive a cabin upgrade plus cruise cash.

Recruiting new members was the topic of discussion. Bases were encouraged to innovate and employ different ways of contacting potential members and recruiting them into USSVI.

Perch Base Commander Tim Moore informed the members of the efforts being made in Phoenix to obtain the sail and rudder of the U.S.S. Phoenix as the nucleus for a submarine memorial in the City of Phoenix.

Rocky Rockers suggested that the USSVI Website is a useful reference for potential members. When someone is identified as a SubVet, they can be introduced to the organization by referring them to the website.

Jim Gibson suggested that we wear our hats with the USSVI logo and instead of taking off our hats when the colors are presented at a public function, render a hand salute. This will cause people to notice us and identify who we are.

Jim Foote commented that members should carry membership applications on the chance that a sub vet will approach you. Jim reported that the organization now consists of 11,814 members. The National Office has sent letters to all the members whose dues are in arrears. Everyone should get involved with delinquent members to get them to remain active in the organization.

Other recruiting methods include the Boat Sponsorship Program, distribution of copies of the American Submariner and similar efforts.

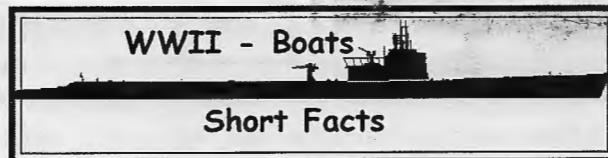
Jim suggested that efforts are underway to determine if the national ballot can be distributed as a tear-out from pages of the American Submariner.

Jack Messersmith suggested that the regional meeting could be held at a more weather friendly time of the year, since some of the members were unable to get to the meeting because of the road conditions.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

All the business before the group having been completed a suggestion was made that the meeting be adjourned. A motion was made by Glenn Herold and seconded by Rocky Rockers that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried.

Following a prayer of benediction by Dave Harnish, the meeting was adjourned at 1126 hour



- The first Japanese warship to be sunk was torpedoed by USS Gudgeon at 9 AM on Jan. 27, 1942, the IJN I-173 (SS).
- The first submarine to fire on a battleship was USS Flying Fish Sept. 1942, damaging a Kongo class BB.
- The first submarine to fire on an aircraft carrier was USS Trout, damaging Taiyo, August 28, 1942.
- The first Japanese ship to be sunk by gunfire was by USS Triton, near Marcus Island on Feb. 17, 1942. At the time, the skipper, Kirkpatrick, was the youngest skipper to get command at Pearl.
- The first man to die in submarine gun action was Michael Harbin, on USS Silversides, May 1942.
- 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 USS Cachalot.
- The USS 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.



## Eternal Patrol March 5, 1943

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. Thresher (SSN-595) 129 men lost



**Contract Awarded:** January 15, 1958, **Keel laid:** May 28, 1958  
**Launched:** July 9, 1960, **Commissioned:** August 3, 1961  
**Builder:** Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, N.H.  
**Propulsion system:** one S5W2 nuclear reactor, **Propellers:** one  
**Length:** 278.5 feet (84.9 meters), **Beam:** 32.15 feet (9.8 meters)  
**Draft:** 28.9 feet (8.8 meters), **Displmt:** Surf: approx. 3,640 tons - Sub: approx. 4,300 tons  
**Speed:** Surfaced: 20 knots - Submerged: 30 knots  
**Armament:** four 533 mm torpedo tubes, **Crew:** 12 Officers, 91 Enlisted



Following trials the nuclear attack submarine took part in nuclear submarine Exercise (NUSUBEX) 3-61 off the northeastern coast of the United States from 18 to 24 September.

On 18 October; the submarine headed south along the east coast. After calling at San Juan, Puerto Rico, she conducted further trials and test-fired her torpedo system before returning to Portsmouth on 29 November. The ship remained in port through the end of the year and spent the first two months of 1962 evaluating her sonar system and her Submarine Rocket (SUBROC) system. In March, the submarine participated in NUSUBEX 2-62, an exercise designed to improve the tactical capabilities of nuclear submarines, and in antisubmarine warfare training with Task Group ALPHA.

Off Charleston, the ship undertook operations observed by the Naval Antisubmarine Warfare Council, before she returned briefly to New England waters from whence she proceeded to Florida for SUBROC tests. However, while mooring at Port Canaveral, the submarine was accidentally struck by a tug which damaged one of her ballast tanks. After repairs at Groton, Conn., by the Electric Boat Company, the ship returned south for more tests and trials off Key West. *Thresher* then returned northward and remained in dockyard hands through the early spring of 1963.

In company with *Skylark* (ASR-20), *Thresher* put to sea on 10 April 1963 for deep-diving exercises. In addition to her 16 officers and 96 enlisted men, the submarine carried 17 civilian technicians to observe her performance during the deep-diving tests.

Fifteen minutes after reaching her assigned test depth, the submarine communicated with *Skylark* by underwater telephone, apprising the submarine rescue ship of



difficulties. Garbled transmissions indicated that—far below the surface—things were going wrong. Suddenly, listeners in *Skyhawk* heard a noise “like air rushing into an air tank”—then, silence.

Efforts to reestablish contact with *Thresher* failed and a search group was formed in an attempt to locate the submarine. Rescue ship *Recovery* (ASR-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Photographs taken by bathyscaph *Trieste* proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands

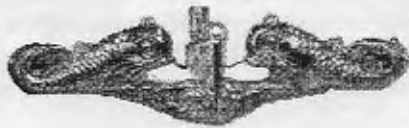


on board to their deaths in 5,500 of water, some 220 miles east of Boston. *Thresher* was officially declared lost in April 1963.

Subsequently, a Court of Inquiry was convened and, after studying pictures and other data, opined that the loss of *Thresher* was in all probability due to a casting, piping, or welding failure that flooded the engine room with water. This water probably caused electrical failures that automatically shutdown the nuclear reactor, causing an initial power loss and the eventual loss of the boat.

*Thresher* is in six major sections on the ocean floor, with the majority in a single debris field about 400 yards square. The major sections are the sail, sonar dome, bow section, engineering spaces, operations spaces, and the tail section.

Owing to the pressurized-water nuclear reactor in the engine room, deep ocean radiological monitoring operations were conducted in August 1983 and August 1986. The site had been previously monitored in 1965 and 1977 and none of the samples obtained showed any evidence of release of radioactivity from the reactor fuel elements. Fission products were not detected above concentrations typical of worldwide background levels in sediment, water, or marine life samples.



## Shumann Liquor Consulting Services, LLC

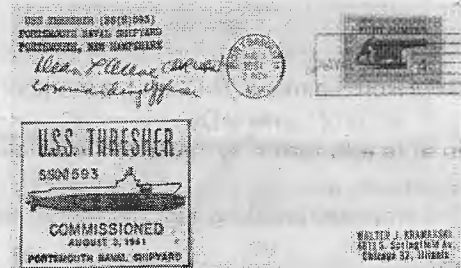
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Chino Valley AZ 86323  
garry@commspeed.net

(480) 510-1409  
(928) 830-0700





# Submarines . . . of Today

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## Taiwan Seeks Deal With United States For Breaking Up Buy Of Diesel Submarines

By George Cahlink, *Defense Daily*, 22 March 2006

Seeking to end an impasse over buying U.S. submarines, Taiwan is now proposing breaking the multibillion deal into two more affordable buys rather than paying for them all at once.

The Taiwan Ministry of Defense proposed earlier this week dividing the potential deal for eight submarines into two stages. In the first phase, Taiwan would pay to design the submarines, then in the second phase they would pay to build them.

According to figures released by the Ministry of Defense, Taiwan would spend \$200 million to design the submarines that the nation estimates would cost \$657 million apiece, a total of about \$5.26 billion. The deal would still have to be approved by Taiwanese legislation, as well as the Pentagon.

The Bush administration approved the sale of eight diesel submarines to the Asian island nation in 2001, but Taiwan had balked at that agreement because it required paying all up front costs for the submarines without first seeing a design.

Taiwanese lawmakers have suggested they would approve the deal if it were divided into more affordable pieces. U.S. officials also would likely back the proposal as a way to boost the nation's sagging submarine industrial base.

Rep. Rob Simmons (R-Conn.), a member of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) whose district is home to thousands of General Dynamics [GD] Electric Boat workers, called the move "welcome news." He urged the Pentagon to work with Taiwan to "make the alternative approach work."

Simmons, who traveled to Taiwan earlier this year to lobby the Taiwanese government on buying the submarines and first proposed breaking it into two parts, said the deal "will give Taiwan's legislature better visibility and confidence" into the submarine sale.

Taiwan's estimated \$5.26 billion price tag for deal is far lower than initial estimates of \$12 billion. A congressional aide believes the \$12 billion estimate was "wildly high" and said industry had indicated the deal would cost about \$8 billion.

The Navy also has been viewed as an opponent of the sale because the service worried manufacturing diesel submarines in the United States would force them to once again buy the diesel-powered craft rather than the more powerful nuclear versions.

Rear Adm. Joseph Walsh, the Navy's director of submarine warfare, however denied last week at a HASC projection forces subcommittee hearing the service had been "dragging its feet on deal." He noted that submarine designers would benefit from the work HASC Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.) will meet with Navy Secretary Donald Winter in the coming weeks to discuss selling submarines to Taiwan. A committee spokesman said Hunter backed the submarine sales, but had not yet decided whether incremental funding was the best option for selling them to Taiwan.

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## Work Begins On Sub Base Project That Could Help Save Submariners' Lives

By Richard Rainey, *New London Day*, 4 Apr 06

Groton - Vertical spindles of rebar, a two-story rubble pile and a really big hole at the U.S. Navy Submarine Base do not amount to much at first glance. But the massive hollow cylinder that will result from the construction represents a strong move forward by the submarine fleet in the science of saving lives.

Five months since breaking ground for a 35-foot-high submarine escape training tower, Navy officials said Monday the project is still on schedule to be built by August 2007. The Navy hopes to put it to use within a year.

The building is the most visible part of a significant overhaul of all submarine escape procedures. In addition, the Navy is integrating a new training regimen and an innovative survival suit.

A tragedy sparked the retooling of escape strategies.

"One of the things that drove this whole program was the Kursk disaster," Master Chief Frank Gorham said.

In August 2000, the Kursk, a Russian naval submarine, exploded and sank in the Barents Sea. All 118 crewmen - 23 of whom were alive after it hit the sea floor - died in the disaster.

Inside the current facility Monday, Gorham showed off the new suits, known as Submersion Escape Immersion Equipment. When wrapped up, the suit and its individual raft fit into a package the size of a small throw pillow.

The equipment will eventually replace the old survival gear, which consists of little more than a protective hood attached to a life vest.

Composed of multiple layers of neon orange nylon separated by zippers and various plastic shields, the new suits completely protect submariners from the water and the weather. A man could potentially escape a sunken submarine from 600 feet deep and survive roughly 72 hours floating in the frigid North Atlantic, Gorham said.

Nonetheless, attempted escape would be a last resort.

"You really want to wait for rescue," Gorham said.

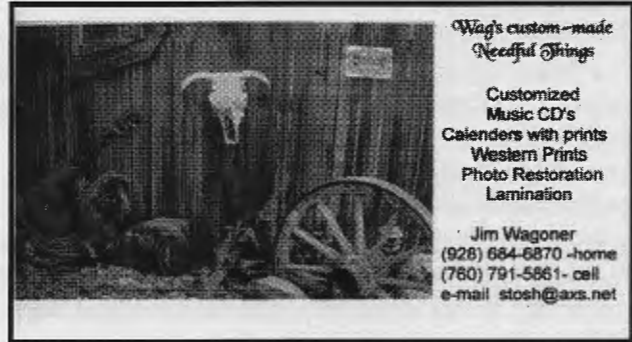
The Navy will use the new training tower, which will hold more than 82,400 gallons of water, to accustom new submariners to the suit and to the new escape plans, he continued. The entire sub fleet will likely be required redo the training every five to eight years.

This will not be the first such tower at the base.

A previous dive tower was constructed in 1929-30 at a cost of \$120,000, and was closed in 1982. A 1986 study showed it would cost \$267,000 to repair and \$367,000 a year to operate it, versus \$265,000 to demolish it, so it was torn down. In the 1980s the Navy instead built a submarine escape simulator that gives sailors experience in operating the escape equipment, but only a few feet below the surface.

When construction began on the new \$17 million project in early November, it became emblematic of the base's future viability. All work had been suspended after the base was slated to be closed as part of the Pentagon's Base Closure and Realignment plan, a decision that was later reversed.

"I think this facility and this equipment is going to be around for a long time," Gorham said.



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## The Return of the U-boat

By Mike Burlison, *The American Thinker*, 29 Mar 06

The giant supercarrier may be entering its last days in the US Navy. In defiance of Congress, America's sea service is retiring one of the last of its oil-fired flattops, the USS Kennedy which is too old to repair and too expensive to upkeep in a fleet desperately attempting to replace its Cold War era ships. According to the recent Quadrennial Defense Review, the number of carriers will be reduced to 11, but the available air wings will number only 10.

This is coming at a time when the big ships are mostly left out of the War on Terror. Al Qaeda has no navy to speak of; the only warships seeing action are patrol ships and frigates hunting pirates in coastal waters. Billion dollar destroyers and cruisers performing the same mission appear like Goliath chasing David. The most important warships currently being built are new littoral combat ships, especially geared for such inshore operations, and at \$300 million each, much more affordable.

One of most numerous type of warship, with some 300 built or building around the world, is not a new concept. It is the old style diesel/electric submarine, little-changed in basic design from its World War 2 predecessor, but updated with key technologies. The reason for the U-boat's comeback is their relatively low cost and their ability to sail under and outmaneuver the bigger surface ships. With the cost of American warships now surpassing a billion dollars each, a Third World navy can purchase a conventional sub for \$100 million, or even less for a used boat.

The diesel submarine is the guerrilla fighter of sea combat, as proven in two world wars of the last century. Unable to match the might of the Royal Navy's giant aircraft carriers and battleships, Germany turned to the only weapon it had left, the U-boat. In so doing she nearly turned the tide of war in her favor, bringing British commerce to its knees.

Likewise in the Pacific War with Japan, the undersea boat outfought a more numerous and powerful foe. With the bulk of her battle fleet on the bottom of Pearl Harbor, America turned to the only weapon left which could take the war to the enemy. In so doing, the silent service sank more Japanese vessels than any other weapon during the war, including aircraft and surface ships.

Another cause for the diesel boat's current resurgence is its extreme quietness. Though America and Russia have spent billions for noise reduction for their mass fleets of nuclear boats, still the deadly silence of a battery motor underwater is unmatched. New propulsion systems are providing subs even more lethality. Russian and European vessels are now going to sea with air-independent-propulsion (AIP), which increases undersea endurance from days to even weeks. Hardly matching the unlimited range of a nuclear boat, it is still a definite improvement over the old tactic of snorkeling.

The conventional boats have become a very grave threat to the surface warship. On numerous occasions during war games with friendly navies, diesel boats from Australia, France, and Germany have pierced the anti-submarine screen and gotten within firing range of American carriers. Chinese subs are increasingly seen further and further from home waters. China's fleet of undersea boats includes ex-Russian Kilo class which is well armed with cruise missiles, and China may also possess the new Shkval rocket, reported to reach underwater speeds of 200 knots.

The US Navy is taking the threat of the new U-boats so seriously it has borrowed an AIP-equipped sub, the Gotland, from Sweden. This advanced new vessel will train surface sailors in the deadly tactics which they may face against navies of rogue states such as Iran, North Korea, and even China.

Such weapons as the Shkval, supersonic missiles, AIP and even more powerful fuel cells give the new U-boats capabilities far surpassing their world war forbearers. Such add-ons may provide emerging Third World navies the means to confront even the world's greatest navies, Britain and America.

It is imperative for Western fleets to consider this reality first before straining precious ship-building funds for a few big ships. The increasing menace from comparatively low-cost submarines threatens the behemoths. Once just a threat to merchant vessels, the U-boats of the 21st century have become a direct challenge to the old order at sea.

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## U-boat Threat Overstated

*By Steven W Dugger, The American Thinker, 29 Mar 06*

I think that Mike Burleson has overstated the threat that the new conventional submarines represent to aircraft carriers. There's no question that the new generation of diesel electrical submarines are deadlier than ever. With their advanced sensors and air independent propulsion systems, they can lurk under water for weeks waiting for their prey to approach. However, what's not mentioned is these submarines critical weakness. They're slow. That underwater endurance depends upon the submarine maintaining a speed of less than 5 knots. Once the conventional submarine comes under attack by either nuclear submarines or sub searching aircraft, it's extremely vulnerable and relatively easy to destroy.

The main reason that the US Navy is threatened by conventional submarines today is because, with the end of the cold war, the anti-submarine skills of the Navy have atrophied. Aircraft that were intended as sub hunters were either re-assigned to intelligence gathering (the P-3 Orion) or were retired without being replaced (the S-3 Viking). With countries like Iran and China investing money in building conventional submarine, the US Navy is forced to play catch up, and relearn the techniques of the cold war, as well as adapting to the new technology of air independent propulsion systems.

The large deck aircraft has played major role in the war on terror. After all, it represents an air base that can be moved to any part of the world on short notice. Even today an aircraft carrier, the USS Ronald Reagan, is stationed in the Persian Gulf helping to provide air support to our forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. The big carrier can carry big aircraft with lots of range, weapons and sensors. This allows the carrier to stay out of the hunting grounds of the conventional submarine and use its aircraft to hunt for the submarine instead.

While it's true that the USS Kennedy is going to be retired and the Navy fleet of carriers reduced to 10, but it's also true that a new large deck carrier is being built today (the USS George HW Bush) and a new generation of large deck carriers is being designed. The reason the big carrier has had such an enduring career, even in this age of rapid technological change, is their flexibility. After all, a carrier can do anything its aircraft can do. Need to perform a new mission, just change the aircraft.

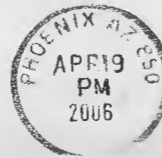


## Scenes from the Base Picnic









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