Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



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Upcoming Events:

2nd Sat. of each month is a boat work day Regular Base Meeting Saturday January 22 at 1700 at AIMM

January 2011

Commander's Corner

***** *

I'm looking forward to a great year for 2011. Although attendance was a bit low for meetings this past year, everyone really turned out for the events, and I hope we can improve on that success again this year. But if there is one thing I have learned this past year, it's that nothing gets done without the help and support from the membership. I know I have said this before, but I can't say it enough, Thank you to everyone for making this past year so much fun and rewarding for Barbara and me.

We closed out 2010 with two events last month starting with the North Little Rock Christmas Parade on Sunday December 5th for which I was just informed that we won the "Sertoma President's Award". This year Joe Mathis, Bob Bowlin Jim Gates, Billy Hollaway, Paul Honeck, David Boyer accompanied by his son and daughter, and myself all rode on the Sail float and tossed candy to the kids. The base participates in the parade every year and it's always a lot of fun, but this year it was even more amusing than usual because Billy stood at the front of the float and screamed "Wee, Wee, Wee" just like the little piggy on the Geico commercial. You had to be there to get the full effect.

Lastly the Base Christmas Party was held on Saturday December 18th at the AIMM barges. The party started out with lots of good food and cheer all around and with about 60 people attendance. Thank you to David Higgins who

provided the invocation, all the AIMM staff who helped set up and decorate the barge, Barbara Schwerman and Sherri Hollaway who decorated the tables, Greg Zonner for the Tolling of the Boats presentation, and also to everyone who helped set up and clean up afterwards.

We also recognized a few people with a short awards ceremony. Although there are so many people who dedicate their time and efforts to both the base and the efforts to preserve the USS Razorback; each year we choose one person to recognize as our Shipmate of the Year, and the award is presented at the Base Christmas Party. This year Billy Hollaway was been chosen as the 2010 Razorback Base Shipmate of the Year. Billy was awarded this year for a number of reasons, including his efforts as COB, Storekeeper, and Memorials and Ceremonies Chairman.

The award read as follows:

2010 SHIPMATE OF THE YEAR

Presented to Billy Hollaway as an
expression of appreciation from his
Shipmates Razorback Base US
Submarine Veterans. Your dedication,
perseverance and unfailing willingness
to accept the responsibilities of Chief of
the Boat, Base storekeeper, and
Memorials and Ceremonies Chairman,
have contributed greatly to the success
of Razorback Base, and truly exemplify
the spirit of what being a shipmate is all
about.

Other awards presented at the Christmas party were:

Superior Achievement (for work on the USS Razorback SS394) - Gene Prohl and Mark Taylor

Commanders' personal letter of Appreciation for service as Base Officers - Joe Mathis, Billy Hollaway, Jane Farmer, Bob Bowlin, Carl Schmidt, John Barr, Lee Huss, Tom Salisbury, Greg Zonner and David Grove. Congratulations to all the awardees.

The night was concluded with the dirty Santa which always provides a number of surprises and good fun. This year's gag gift went to Mary Christians, who picked a gift containing a real Buffalo Chip picked up from Yellowstone National Park. No one would fess up to who provided such an appropriate gift for a group where so much BS had already been deposited. I wonder if it will make a return appearance at the next Christmas Party?

The next regular base meeting will be on Saturday 22 January at 1700 at AIMM. At this meeting we will plan this year's schedule including meeting and event dates. Ray and Barbara Wewers have volunteered to accept the position of events coordinator's this year, so bring all your ideas to the January meeting so we can get a good start on 2011.

Greg Schwerman - Base Commander



Submarines Lost/Damaged During the Month of January

USS E 2 (SS 25) **15 Jan 1916**. Four men lost. USS S-36 (SS-141) **20-Jan-1942**. No loss of crew.

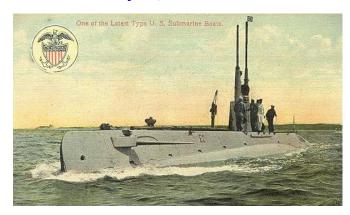
USS S-26 (SS-131) 24-Jan-1942. 46 men lost.

USS Argonaut (SS-166) 10-Jan-1943. All hands lost (105).

USS Scorpion (SS-278) 5-Jan-1944. All hands lost (78).

USS Swordfish (SS-193) 12-Jan-1945. All hands lost (90).

USS E-2 (SS-25) January 15, 1916 – Four Men Lost



USS E-2 (SS-25) was an E-class submarine of the United States Navy. Originally named Sturgeon, the boat was launched on 15 June 1911 by the Fore River Shipyard, Quincy, Massachusetts; sponsored by Ms. Margaret Nelson Little; renamed E-2 on 17 November 1911; and commissioned on 14 February 1912, Ensign C. N. Hinkamp in command.

Serving in the Atlantic Submarine Flotilla, E-2 sailed out of Newport, Rhode Island for developmental exercises and training. From 5 January-21 April 1914, she cruised to Guantanamo Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. She returned to Naval Station Newport on 27 July, for training operations for the remainder of the summer and from February-May 1915 off Florida.

Entering New York Navy Yard on 19 June for overhaul, E-2 was victim of a violent explosion and fire on 15 January 1916 when hydrogen gas ignited during conditions of severe battery testing; tests made under the direction of the Edison Storage Battery Company. Four men were killed and seven injured. On 13 March, E-2 was placed out of commission for use as a laboratory, for exhaustive tests of the Edison storage battery.

Recommissioned on 25 March 1918, E-2 served in training and experimental work at New London until 16 May. Two days later she arrived at Norfolk to operate against enemy submarines off Cape Hatteras. From 21 May-27 August, she made four war patrols, sighting a large enemy submarine for which she made extended submerged search on her last patrol. E-2 was commended by the Chief of Naval Operations for two of these anti-submarine patrols, which were exceptionally long for a submarine of her size.

Returning to New London on 31 August 1918, E-2 made two more patrols before the end of the war, and then returned to training student officers and qualifying men for duty in submarines. She sailed from New London to Norfolk on 19 April 1920, arriving two days later. There she was placed in commission in ordinary on 18 July 1921. On 17 September, she sailed for Philadelphia Navy Yard where she was decommissioned on 20 October and sold on 19 April 1922.

"We shall never forget that it was our submarines that held the lines against the enemy while our fleets replaced losses and repaired wounds," Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, USN.

Razorback Base News



USSVI Razorback Base

Christmas Party December 18, 2010

Thanks to all who came to the Christmas Party. We had 72 people and a lot of food. All had a Great Time. See all the pictures of the Christmas party at:

www.razorbackbase.com/XMAS2010.html



Thanks Mary for the Fashion Show



North Little Rock Christmas Parade on Sunday Dec. 5th

Base won the "Sertoma President's Award".



Razorback & National Dues

If you owe dues you would have received a letter from me some time ago, and a couple of follow-up e-mails. If you are uncertain what you owe, please contact me at jcbarr346@att.net or 501-663-6622.

GERALD E
CARLSON
ENC
US NAVY
KOREA
VIETNAM
JUN 14 1929
JAN 18 2010
ON ETERNAL
PATROL WITH ANN

Gerry Carlson is resting in the National Cemetery, Ft. Smith, AR. and was a Charter Member of our base until his death.

--Wear your Dolphins - you earned them!-

Navy News

Submariners Get New Information Systems Technician Rating

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs, Dec 20, 2010

WASHINGTON (NNS) -The Navy released NAVADMIN
406/10, Dec. 17, announcing
the creation of the Information
Systems Technician
Submarines (ITS) service rating
and providing active duty
Sailors with guidance on how to
request an ITS conversion.

"The establishment of the ITS rating will provide the Submarine Force with an infrastructure of information assurance and network professionals who will be fully equipped to resolve future issues and implement new technologies on board our submarines," said Lt. Dan Morrison, Submarine, Non-Nuclear, Enlisted Community Manager. "Overall, the ITS

rating is an excellent choice for Sailors who seek challenges in new and emerging technologies, and the opportunity to be submariners

The primary source ratings for ITS conversions will be from Sailors assigned to jobs in submarine Local Area Network divisions and those from ratings in the information assurance workforce, but all non-nuclear trained Sailors are eligible to request conversion. Information System Technicians (IT) with Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC) codes of 2780, 2781, or 2735 will be eligible for direct conversion to ITS.

Describing the benefits of converting to ITS, Morrison explained, "Currently, submariners working outside of their source rating in support of submarine LAN requirements are at a disadvantage when taking promotion examinations. Sailors who convert to ITS will participate in ITS examinations and compete with other ITS professionals in their paygrade."

Any E-4 to E-6 active duty Sailor who wants to be part of the initial 180-200 selected for conversion must ensure they are eligible for submarine service prior to submitting their request (NAVPERS 1306/7 form) to Naval Personnel Command (PERS-811) by the Feb.1, 2011 deadline. Sailors possessing a Microsoft (MS) A+ or Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) certification are highly encouraged to apply and should note these certifications on their conversion request form.

Dependent upon their source rating and previous training, Sailors selected for conversion may require additional schooling and potentially incur additional obligated service. For example, Sailors who require an IT NEC may attend A-school as part of their conversion and Sailors from non-submarine ratings will need to attend Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS) prior to being assigned to a submarine as an ITS. Applicants are encouraged to speak with a Navy Career Counselor about the conversion process.

To learn more about the ITS rating conversion, visit Navy Personnel Command's website at www.npc.navy.mil.

Smoking Lamp Goes Out On All U.S. Submarines

By Kate Wiltrout, The (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot, Jan 3, 2011

One of the liveliest spots aboard most submarines will wither away into the history books. RIP, smoke pit.

Its death was scripted in April, when Navy officials announced smoking would no longer be allowed on submarines at sea. The reason: testing showed that despite air filtering, there were "unacceptable levels" of secondhand smoke on submerged submarines.

Chief Petty Officer Robert Mueller used to head to the smoke pit before and after his shifts as assistant navigator aboard the submarine Albany.

It was always a popular spot. Los Angeles-class attack submarines such as the Albany allowed smoking in the engine room at the very back and very bottom of the boat, a spot that typically was the nerve center of the boat. It's where gossip "gouge," in Navy lingo was traded. Only three men were allowed to light up at a time, so lines formed quickly.

"That's where you really find out what's going on," Mueller said. "The most common denominator is it's like the only escape that you have, the only place you can go that's not work-related. It's like, 'I'm going to take five and I'm going to go smoke.'

Creature comforts are few aboard a 360-foot-long metal tube, crammed with 140 officers and crew, unable to access sunlight or fresh air. A crew's indulgences boil down to food, coffee and cigarettes.

For many members of the Navy's "silent service," the idea of a cruise without cigarettes was akin to a deployment without coffee.

The Norfolk-based Albany was on deployment this spring when the smoking announcement came out.

Fireman Randall Fogle, a two-pack-a-day smoker, remembers his reaction: "I thought they were damned crazy," he said.

Pentagon Said Likely to Back New Design for Ballistic Missile Submarine

By Elaine M. Grossman, Global Security Newswire, Dec. 21, 2010

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Defense Department is likely to pursue a brand new design for its next nuclear-armed submarine, following a Navy recommendation during a key program review earlier this month, according to experts and observers (see GSN, Sept. 27).

The Pentagon's Defense
Acquisition Board on December
9 completed an initial design
review meeting on the so-called
"SSBN(X)" effort,
spokeswoman Cheryl Irwin
confirmed last week. However,
she indicated the department
was not ready to release the
review's results.

If approved by defense acquisitions czar Ashton Carter, the replacement submarine for today's Ohio-class ballistic missile vessels would enter its first major acquisition program phase, called "Milestone A."

A recent Congressional Research Service report estimated it would cost roughly \$70 billion to replace the 12 ballistic missile submarines expected to populate the U.S. fleet by the end of this decade. The nation currently fields 14 Ohio-class boats.

The Navy has not released total cost projections for the new underwater craft, but has estimated it would spend \$29.4 billion on the effort between fiscal 2011 and 2020. That figure, though, excludes costs for roughly two subsequent decades during which the 12 new submarines would be built and delivered.

The next-generation submarine is to initially carry today's Trident D-5 nuclear-armed ballistic missiles, but later could be fitted with newdesign nuclear missiles and possibly conventional weaponry (see GSN, Aug. 10).

The first Ohio-class submarine to be replaced reaches the end of its 42-year service life in 2027. One subsequent vessel is slated to retire each year after that, with the last submarine expected to age out in 2040. The SSBN(X) submarines are to enter the fleet between 2029 and 2042.

One pivotal decision believed likely to come out of the Defense Acquisition Board review pertains to the approach the Navy will take in developing and building the replacement submarine. In an official "analysis of alternatives" that also has not been released, the Navy considered three possible design concepts for the Ohioclass follow-on, according to a recent Energy Department report.

First, the Navy could base its design on the Ohio-class

vessel. This would have the potential benefit of saving much of the cost involved in designing a new submarine, which one 2008 estimate pegged at roughly \$7 billion. However, service officials have said this approach would have the disadvantage of locking in older technologies that fail to meet the Navy's needs.

For example, it could be difficult to include in an Ohioclass design the silencing technologies the Navy believes are needed to combat modern detection equipment that future adversaries might field, among other features, according to naval sources.

Second, the service could alter the Virginia-class attack submarine design so that it could carry ballistic missiles. This approach could also offer cost-cutting advantages and transition the service to a smaller ballistic-missile vessel at a time when traditional Cold War nuclear threats are receding, according to analysts.

On the downside, modifying the more diminutive Virginia-class vessels would give the submarines a "humpback" appearance -- thanks to the insertion of a compartment for the large D-5 missiles -- and that could result in reduced capability in such areas as speed, maneuverability and stealth, the Navy has argued.

"A Virginia Insert SSBN would require redesign of the Virginia and would have technical and operational shortcomings and risks," the CRS report quoted the Navy as stating in March.

That leaves the Navy endorsing a new-design approach, the third option considered for the SSBN(X) in the service's analysis of alternatives, according to program experts. Though a

new-design submarine involves additional cost, the Navy recently tailored back its size and speed requirements for the boat, defense leaders said this fall

An "emphasis on affordability is already being applied to the next-generation ballistic missile submarine, where we are trimming [design] requirements without compromising critical capability," said Defense Secretary Robert Gates, appearing with Carter at a September 14 press briefing.

Pentagon-watchers said this month's Milestone A meeting was likely to have resulted in a schedule for the new submarine's development and testing, as well as possible cost-reduction goals for the program.

"The big problem is going to be money, because no one knows what they're going to cost," Norman Polmar, a longtime Defense Department consultant on naval issues, told Global Security Newswire yesterday.

There is little debate, though, over the basic necessity of replacing today's aging submarines.

"To maintain an at-sea presence for the long-term, the United States must continue development of a follow-on to the Ohio-class submarine," stated the Pentagon's Nuclear Posture Review, an assessment of strategic forces and strategy completed in April. "Since the lead times associated with designing, building, testing, and deploying new submarines are particularly long, the secretary of defense has directed the Navy to begin technology development of an SSBN replacement."

In February the Navy said that "owing to the unique

demands of strategic relevance, [the new submarines] must be fitted with the most up-to-date capabilities and stealth to ensure they are survivable throughout their full 40-year life span," according to the Congressional Research Service.

Among the new capabilities the service is seeking in the new submarines is a nuclear fuel core that would last as long as the vessel, an improvement on the Ohio-class reactors that required midlife refueling, the October 28 CRS report states.

Whether Carter and his defense buying panel have fully backed all of the Navy's requests for SSBN(X) remains unclear, but it is "almost 100 percent certain" that the Pentagon will opt for a new design, one congressional source said last week.

Critics say, though, that the Navy analysis of alternatives failed to seriously assess the prospects for viable alternatives to a new design, effectively setting up the idea of designing a boat from scratch as the only acceptable option.

"That's the beauty of the Goldilocks approach, is that two options will always be unacceptable and then you land on the one you prefer anyway," Hans Kristensen, who directs the Federation of American Scientists' Nuclear Information Project, said in an interview yesterday.

The recent design review was also expected to decide whether the submarine will feature 16 or 20 missile tubes, according to the Capitol Hill aide and others who asked not to be identified in discussing the sensitive matter.

Each tube would be capable of launching a single D-5 ballistic missile or a future ballistic missile of up to the

same size, but also might be able to fire multiple smaller weapons, according to experts.

To cut costs, the Navy is believed to be pressing for 16 missile tubes in the new submarine, though that does not mean that a new-design vessel would be smaller than the Ohio-class boat, which has 24 missile tubes, according to the CRS report.

In a recent briefing, "the Navy stated that an SSBN(X) would probably be about the same size and have roughly the same displacement as an Ohioclass submarine, even though it might have only 16 or 20 missile tubes," according to the congressional report. "Over time, technological advancements tend to add weight to a submarine design (compared with the same submarine produced 30 years earlier)."

In part because of technologies the Navy has long embraced to insulate the submarine's nuclear-reactor propulsion system, "there are real physical limits to how small you can make it," Kristensen said of the next ballistic missile submarine.

Polmar argued, though, that the Navy should consider using newer and smaller quieting technologies, such as "active" silencing approaches that cancel out reactor noise with other noise. Both of the analysts also said that if the Pentagon could accept a more limited patrol range for its next ballistic-missile submarine, the reactor and the overall size of the craft could be smaller.

"We don't have to stay as far at sea as we did during the Cold War," Polmar said.

On Capitol Hill earlier this year, lawmakers urged the Navy to consider buying a submarine smaller than the

Ohio class -- such as a variant of the Virginia class -- that would be limited to launching a less-sizable missile like the Trident C-4, the weapon that the D-5 replaced.

"I think you ought to ask the engineers about a missile that might fit in the smaller submarine rather than the multibillion dollars you might have to sink into a replacement for the Ohio-class submarine," House Armed Services Committee Chairman Ike Skelton (D-Mo.) told Navy Undersecretary Robert Work at a July hearing.

Work responded that the Navy had considered using the C-4, but opted instead to go with the D-5, even if that effectively ruled out using a Virginia-class design.

Rear Adm. Terry Benedict explained to a Capitol Hill breakfast audience the same month that retaining D-5 missile capability in the new submarine would help maintain continuity during a 13-year period between 2029 and 2042, as the Ohio-class boats gradually retire and their replacements transition into the fleet. Benedict directs the Navy Strategic Systems Planning office.

Though the decision would allow the Navy to avoid the cost and developmental risk of undertaking both a missile- and submarine-development program at the same time, it also would mean the Ohio-class replacement must be large enough to fit the D-5, which has a range of roughly 4,000 nautical miles.

"At the outset, we have a predecisional notion that we're going to keep the D-5, making other [submarine] options straw men," Kristensen said.

Polmar agreed that the Navy should seriously consider

using the C-4 or a new-design missile that is roughly 35 feet in length, as it could still offer the service some 3,000 nautical miles in range.

Under the New START nuclear arms control agreement -- a U.S.-Russian pact currently on the Senate floor for a ratification vote -- the Pentagon anticipates capping its Trident D-5 missile force at 240.

Today the fleet carries 288 deployed D-5s, armed with a total 1,152 nuclear warheads.

The reduction in two vessels by the end of this decade is not, in itself, expected to affect the number of D-5 warheads fielded at that time, according to nuclear force analysts Kristensen and Robert Norris of the Natural Resources Defense Council. The numbers would allow for a slightly higher average warhead loading on each missile, if the Pentagon desired.

Navy Adds Restrictions for Submariner Pay

By Sam Fellman, Navy Times, Dec 29, 2010

Submariners heading to shore duty in 2011 will have to commit to longer follow-on sea duty to continue receiving incentive pay, according to a NAVADMIN message released Tuesday.

To receive continuous duty sub pay while assigned to shore or non-submarine duty, they must commit to serving 18 months past their projected rotation date starting in April. For those checking aboard shore duty sooner or already assigned there, the current requirement of 14 months past PRD won't change.

"The objective of this change is to improve at-sea manning stability by lengthening the time personnel who obligate their service (OBLISERV) for subpay will be

onboard and qualified after returning to sea," states the message released by Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson.

Sub incentive pay adds up for petty officers and chiefs. A second class petty officer with five years of service receives \$250 a month; a Chief with 12 years gets \$405, according to the Opnav instruction 7220.15.

2011 Navy Fleet Talk

(Navy Times of 03 Jan. 2011)

As 2011 Gets Underway. here are things every Sailor, Active or Retired, should know.

The coming year will bring big changes to Navy leadership, uniforms, physical fitness, pay and hardware: Pay Raises 2010 marked the first time in 11 years that Congress did not increase Active Duty Pay by more than the average in private-sector wages. And it was the second vear there were no cost-ofliving adjustments in Military Retired Pay. And, of course, it was the same for Social Security.

Next CN0: Admiral James Stavridis leads the pack to replace Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Garv Roughead, whose term ends in the fall.

New Uniforms: Come January 1, no more utilities for Sailors and wash khakis for Chiefs and Officers. The blueand-gray camouflage Navy working uniform will be the working uniform for all ranks. E-6 and below could also get a reworked version of their dress uniforms later in 2011. Navv leaders hope to improve the function of the white-and-blue "crackeriacks". Proposed changes would make both versions easier to wear, with side zippers on the jumpers. The pants would have hidden zippers, making the 13-button

flap purely decorative. The whites would look more like the dress-blue uniform, with piping added to the sleeves and back flap.

Cutlasses for CPO's:

Ceremonial cutlasses for Chiefs were approved this past year. The ceremonial weapon has a blade that is shorter, curved and thicker than a sword. The sword is mandatory for 0-4's and above when worn with the full dress uniform. The cutlass will be an optional ceremonial component of the Chiefs' dress uniform.

Enlisted Advancements:

After three straight cycles with drops in overall petty officer advancement opportunity, Navy officials say the chance to move up has stabilized and should improve slightly in 2011. Record breaking retention is the main reason opportunity has slowed.

Navy Staffing: Navy staffing is expected to hold steady in the coming year before eventually making its way down to 325,000. As of 22 December there were 328,015 on active duty. The service had planned to drop to 322,000 by 2013, but leaders are rethinking the fleet needs.

Don't Ask, Don't Tell: With the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," service members can expect 2011 to bed the first years gays can serve openly in uniform.

Command Master Chief firings: Expect to hear more about command master chiefs aetting into trouble in the coming year as MCPON Rick West calls for publicizing firings when they occur the same as is done in the case of commanding officers being fired.

Gene Combs SK1 (1950-52) USS Begor (APD-127)





January Birthdays
Jan 1st – Sabri Celik

Jan 7th – Dean Read Jan 7th - Maurice Barksdale

Jan 8th – Bruce Lipe

Jan 10th – Cecil Goins

Jan 10 - Gedi Goins

Jan 10th - Mike Moore

Jan 18th - Marvin Vaughter

Jan 22nd - Danny Smith

Jan 24th - Kelly Driver

Jan 24th – Renny Wright Jan 28th – Jim Gates

Happy Birthday!

Treasures Report: Dec 2010

BEGINNING BAL.:	\$ 8556.82	
DEPOSITS:		
Dues	1145.00	
Storekeeper	45.58	
TOTAL DEPOSITS:	\$ 1190.58	
EXPENSES:		
Dues Paid to National	220.00	
Christmas Exp	219.42	
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$ 439.42	
ENDING BALANCE:	\$ 9307.98	
CHARITYS		
Boat Maint Fund	\$ 1441.03	
Base Charity Fund	\$ 474.00	
USS Snook Memorial	\$ 1405.86	
Regions Bank CD	\$ 5160.99	
Interest		
Ending Balance	\$ 5160.99	
Cash on hand	50.00	
TOTAL IN BASE	\$14,518.97	
FUNDS =		

Base Treasurer **Bob Bowlin**

HAWGFISH SCUTTLEBUTT IN GOD WE TRUST

David Grove 144 White Oak Ln. Little Rock, AR 72227 dgrove2000@sbcglobal.net



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. A pledge of loyalty and patriotism to the United States Government its Constitution."



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