



Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



Published monthly by the USS Razorback
Base of the United States Submarine Veterans,
Inc.

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Upcoming Events:

Work day on Razorback is canceled of July 10th.

Next work day will be August 7th at 0900.

Base meeting July 24th at 1600 at Little Rock American Legion Post 1, at 315 East Capital Little Rock. E-board meets at 1500.

July 2010

Commander's Corner

Its election time again, this year, and in addition to the upcoming Federal and local elections, we also need to cast a vote for our USSVI National, Regional and Base Officers. The election for National and Regional Officers is now open, and I encourage everyone to cast a vote for the candidates of your choice. You can vote online by going to the USSVI home page and select 2010 Election, or send in your vote by US Mail. Please let your choice be counted. USSVI is an organization of brothers, bound together by our common experiences and the efforts required to be designated as "QUALIFIED IN SUBMARINES", and the experience gained by taking a 300 foot long steel pipe in harm's way. I will assume that you were probably never afraid to voice your opinion back on the usta-fish, so don't be shy now. Cast your vote and voice your wishes.

Also, at the July meeting we will be asking for nominations for this year's Base Officers. Due to the recent changes in the Base bylaws, elected officers are Commander and Vice Commander. If you are a Regular or Life Member, and in good standing for a minimum of twelve months, you are eligible to run for elected office. Members nominated for office must be in attendance at the July meeting to be nominated. All other officers are appointed positions, and will be appointed by the Base commander and confirmed by the membership. I would like encourage everyone who might wish to be nominated for elected office, or might like to serve on one of the other positions, please attend the July Base meeting and voice your interest. The election will be held in October.

Reminder that July 23rd, 24th and 25th is the Central District One 2010 Convention in Jefferson City MO. For information contact Ed Irwin at ednsue1975@yahoo.com

Our next base Meeting will be Saturday 24 July at 1600 in the main room of the Little Rock American Legion Post 1, located at 315 East Capital Little Rock. Dinner will be served after the meeting. E-board will meet at 1500.

Greg Schweman
Base Commander

[Submarines Lost/Damaged During the Month of July](#)

USS G 2 (SS 27) **30 Jul 1919**. Three men lost.

[USS Runner \(SS-275\)](#) **1-Jul-1943**. All hands lost (78).

[USS S-28 \(SS-133\)](#) **4-Jul-1944**. All hands lost (50).

[USS Robalo \(SS-273\)](#) **26-Jul-1944**. All hands lost (81).



USS R-28 (SS-133)
July 4, 1944 – All Hands Lost (50)

Commissioned in 1923, S-28 was undergoing a complete refit at Mare Island at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack. Following the completion of this refit, S-28 was based at San Diego, on training duties with the Underwater Sound Training School.

Wartime needs resulted in S-28 being sent to the Aleutians, where she completed five war patrols, operating out of Dutch Harbor. In 1943 she was sent to Esquimalt, BC, where she worked with the RCN in anti-submarine training exercises. Following this, she was sent to Puget Sound Navy Yard for refit. Following this refit, S-28 made two more patrols out of Dutch Harbor, sinking the Japanese gunboat Katsura Maru Number 2 on the second.

S-28 proceeded to Pearl Harbor in November 1943, where she underwent yet another refit. She then remained in Hawaii, where she again participated in training exercises.

On 3 July 1944, she began training operations off Oahu with the Coast Guard cutter RELIANCE (WSC-150). The antisubmarine warfare exercises continued into the evening of the 4th. At 1730, the day's concluding exercise began. Contact between the two became sporadic and, at 1820, the last, brief contact with S-28 was made and lost. All attempts to establish communications failed. Assistance arrived from Pearl Harbor, but a thorough search of the area failed to locate the submarine. Two days later, a diesel oil slick appeared in the area where she had been operating, but the extreme depth exceeded the range of available equipment.

The Court of Inquiry returned the opinion that S-28 lost depth control "from either a material casualty or an operating error of personnel, or both, and that depth control was never regained. The exact cause of the loss of S-28 cannot be determined." The court found, further, that "the material condition of S-28 was as good or better than that of other ships of her class performing similar duty," and that, "the officers and crew on board S-28 at the time of her loss were competent to operate the ship submerged in the performance of her assigned duties." The Court also stated that the loss of S-28 was not caused by negligence or inefficiency of any person or persons.

"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.

USSVI and Razorback Base News

USSVI Elections Underway

The election for National and Regional Officers is now open, and I encourage everyone to cast a vote for the candidates of your choice. You can vote online by going to the USSVI home page and select 2010 Election, or send in your vote by US Mail. Please let your choice be counted. USSVI is an organization of brothers, bound together by our common experiences, and the efforts required to be designated as "QUALIFIED IN SUBMARINES", and the experience gained by taking a 300 foot long steel pipe in harm's way. I will assume that you were probably never afraid to voice your opinion back on the usta-fish, so don't be shy now. Cast your vote and voice your wishes.

Greg Schwerman

USSVI-SVWWII Convention

August 30 - September 06, 2010, the centrally located and beautiful Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area is the ideal location for this year's USSVI National Convention.

The convention program will give you the opportunity to experience the best this area has to offer.

Tours and events include a city tour, which will provide a wonderful overview of the area, a chance to visit a Kentucky Horse Park, try your luck at one of the local casinos, or dine at America's first authentic Hofbrauhaus. Don't miss the tour to the National Air Force Museum, located at Wright Patterson AFB; this is the largest aviation museum in the world.

Enjoy a private paddle-wheel river cruise along the Ohio River, and a tolling the boats ceremony at the Drawbridge Hotel.

This will surely be a great convention, with many opportunities to tour and spend time with your friends and family. Don't miss out, BOOK NOW!
<http://www.2010convention.cincsubvets.com/>
--Wear your Dolphins - you earned them!--

Navy News

The Brits Give a Try! - Royal Navy to allow female sailors on subs (after fears over affects of nuclear reactors)

By *Daily Mail Reporter* 21st June 2010

The Royal Navy is preparing to allow women to serve on its submarine fleet for the first time, defense sources say.

The final barrier to allowing females aboard Britain's 11 nuclear submarines has been broken down after a report found that life aboard a submarine would not adversely affect pregnant women.

Previously, accepted thinking was that recycled air and living and working so close to a nuclear reactor would affect unborn babies. But this has been dispelled.

It is understood that the first female submariners will be about five officers who will join one of the Vanguard submarines carrying Trident nuclear missiles.

Female crews have served on British surface warships since 1990.

At present the Royal Navy only allows three exceptions for women being on board military submarines: female civilian technicians for a few days at most; women midshipmen on an overnight stay during summer training; and family members for one-day dependent cruises.

Most navies - including the U.S. Navy - still prohibit women from serving on submarines. The Royal Norwegian Navy became the first to allow female crew on submarines in 1985. The Royal Danish Navy followed in 1988 and Commonwealth countries Australia and Canada have female submariners. Recruiting females into the 110-year-old Submarine service will also help overcome significant command shortages aboard subs.

There had been concerns about female crew - which the cramped quarters on board could lead to difficulties with the Royal Navy's 'no touch' policy between the sexes.

There have been a number of incidents when female Navy crew had become pregnant while serving on Royal Navy vessels, and had been immediately sent ashore.

This could be difficult on submarines, which can spend up to six months at sea.

Defense sources say that the submarine living quarters will need to be adapted before female crew came

aboard, and that the first female officers would see duty in 2012.

Self-Inflicted Attack Sub Cuts Cripple America's Sea Superiority

Submitted by: James A Fox on 7/7/2010

Decreasing funds and increasing missions have put the Navy's submarine force in deep trouble - and it's sinking fast. Lawmakers and strategists agree that the Navy's plan to reduce its attack submarine fleet by 15 percent will render it unable to meet critical requirements. The planned replacement of 14 ballistic missile subs with 12 new \$7 billion Tridents will cut shipbuilding by half for 14 years. The retirement of all guided missile subs will place extra missions on an already stretched fleet.

See attached link:

<http://sigmundcarlandalfred.wordpress.com/2010/05/11/deep-dive-self-inflicted-attack-sub-cuts-cripple>

New Release Tells True Stories of Navy Enlisted Submariners on Patrol in the Pacific During WW II

PR-USA, July 19, 2010

More than 3,500 men, more than 23 percent of the American submarine force, never returned from their World War II missions. Their submarines had few crew comforts, and duty on "the boats" was one of the most statistically deadly, physically demanding and emotionally challenging assignments for those serving in the U.S. Navy. War patrols were so exhausting that submarine sailors were often given a month of rest after each 30- to 60-day patrol. With all the hardships, one might think the Navy would have trouble finding recruits. However, the men worked long, trained hard, and used their wits to fight for a coveted place on the front line of the Pacific war.

The Men: American Enlisted Submariners in World War II, published by Dog Ear Publishing, recounts the real story of these undersea warriors, told by the men who lived it. The author's interviews with submarine veterans allow these unique and important stories to be told from first-hand reports. Descriptions of depth charge attacks, crew activities and traditions, and even capture by the enemy add thrilling details to this rich historical account. Never-before-published photographs and

informative charts provide a unique glimpse into the conditions faced by these brave enlisted men. Readers will be hooked by this examination of the men who lived, fought and died on the front lines of World War II's Pacific submarine war.

Stephen Leal Jackson, a U.S. Navy veteran, served on the submarines USS Los Angeles (SSN688) and USS Florida (SSBN728). His service included several Western Pacific cruises to many of the very places described in his book. Jackson earned a master's degree in American and European history from Providence College and is pursuing a Ph.D. at Salve Regina University.

Ground Breaking For New Submarine School On Guam

By D. Macaluso, Pacific News Center, July 15, 2010

A groundbreaking ceremony held Thursday morning at Polaris Point officially kicked off the construction of three state of the art training facilities. The first building will be a two-story consolidated training submarine learning center which will consist of classrooms, instructor's offices and simulators. The second building will be a headquarters which will include offices, an emergency control room and storage rooms. The third structure will be a torpedo exercise support facility that will include a helicopter launcher and an exercise torpedo flushing operations room.

These new structure are slated to be completed by November 2011.

On the Shoulders of Giants: Innovation and Courage - The Legacy of World War II Submarine Veterans By Daniel T. Rean

The numbers tell a story. They do not lie. According to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, approximately 900 World War II veterans die every day. But that number is not the whole story. We cannot simply consider statistical losses when we look at that number.

What we are really losing is a unique brand of warriors who let nothing stand in the way of the march toward victory, and no group of World War II veterans typified that never-say-die attitude better than that of America's submarine service.

Click on the link for the rest of the story...
<http://www.militaryhistoryonline.com/wwii/articles/shouldersofgiants.aspx>

US Submarines Emerge In Show Of Military Might Message unlikely to be lost on Beijing as 3 vessels turn up in Asian ports

By Greg Torode, South China Morning Post, 4 July 2010

In a scarcely noticed move last Monday, three of America's largest submarines surfaced in Asia-Pacific ports in a show of force by the US Seventh Fleet not seen since the end of the cold war.

The appearance of the USS Michigan in Pusan, South Korea, the USS Ohio in Subic Bay, in the Philippines, and the USS Florida in the strategic Indian Ocean outpost of Diego Garcia not only reflects the trend of escalating submarine activity in East Asia, but carries another threat as well.

The three Ohio-class submarines have all been recently converted from carrying cold-war-era nuclear ballistic missiles to other weapons – improved intelligence sensors, special operations troops and, significantly, a vast quantity of Tomahawk cruise missiles, a maneuverable low flying weapon designed to strike targets on land.

Between them, the three submarines can carry 462 Tomahawks, boosting by an estimated 60 per cent plus the potential Tomahawk strike force of the entire Japanese-based Seventh Fleet – the core projection of US military power in East Asia.

While the move has been made with little fanfare, it is starting to resonate across the region. US officials insist it reflects long-term deployment plans and is not directed at a single country or crisis – such as intensifying tensions on the Korean peninsula following North Korea's sinking of a South Korean warship – but the message is unlikely to be lost on Beijing.

One veteran Asian military attaché, who keeps close ties with both Chinese and US forces, noted that “460-odd Tomahawks are a huge amount of potential firepower in anybody's language”.

“It is another sign that the US is determined to not just maintain its military dominance in Asia, but to be

seen doing so ... that is a message for Beijing and for everybody else, whether you are a US ally or a nation sitting on the fence.”

Other Asian diplomats said it might reflect a rising chorus of concern in recent months from China's neighbors, who have been discreetly urging the US to do more to stand up to China's growing naval assertiveness in East Asia. Chinese exercises have been expanding in size and scope in recent months, with vessels appearing beyond Japan's offshore islands and appearing deep in the disputed South China Sea. “Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore and Australia – all these countries have been active behind the scenes in expressing concerns,” another Asian diplomat said. “There is no hotter topic at the moment than China's naval ambitions.”

In Washington, meanwhile, concern is mounting about missile deployments in East Asia. Pentagon estimates suggest China is increasing its stocks of short-range ballistic missiles and precision cruise missiles, and boosting their capabilities.

Its last report on China's military modernization estimated that a September 2008 stockpile of between 1,050 and 1,150 short-range ballistic missiles was rising at a rate of about 100 per year, the bulk concentrated on Taiwan. South Korean estimates show North Korea has fielded more than 650 short-range ballistic missiles. A recent report from the Washington-based Project 2049 Institute think tank noted that expanded conventional ballistic and ground launched cruise missiles were now “the centerpiece of [China's] political and military strategy”.

Coupled with other improved aerospace capabilities, such as electronic sensors, over the next 15 years China might be “increasingly confident of its ability to dominate the skies around its periphery”, the report said. It noted that the PLA could challenge the defenses of Taiwan, Japan and India, as well as US forces in the western Pacific.

“This may lead Beijing to become more assertive in its dealings with its neighbors,” says the report, written by analysts Mark Stokes and Ian Easton.

“A strategic shift in [the] regional aerospace balance also may increasingly unravel the fabric of US alliances and prompt allies and friends to consider weapons of mass destruction ... as an insurance against unfavorable imbalances,” it says.

In policies drafted under then president George W. Bush, a Republican, and continued by the administration of his successor, Democrat Barack Obama, the Pentagon is shifting 60 per cent of its 53 fast-attack submarines to the Pacific – a process that is now virtually complete.

But the presence of the larger cruise-missile submarines shows that, at times, the US forward posture will be significantly larger.

While nominally based on the west coast of the United States, the Ohio, for example, has been operating out of Guam for most of the last year, taking advantage of the island’s expanding facilities to extend its operations in the western Pacific.

It is due to return soon, but the Florida and the Michigan are likely to remain in the region for many months yet, using Guam and possibly Diego Garcia for essential maintenance and crew changes.

The presence of the Florida, based on the US east coast, appears to confirm the US is still routinely bringing submarines under the arctic ice cap to East Asia. Some US east coast ports are closer, via this route, to the region than some west coast bases, such as San Diego.

Just one other submarine has been converted from ballistic to cruise missiles and all four are currently deployed simultaneously for the first time.

Announcing the move earlier this month, Submarine Squadron 19 Commander Captain John Tammen noted the “transformational capabilities” of the cruise missile submarines. “[They] provide the combatant commander a significant increase in war-fighting ability, and options for resolving and deterring conflict,” he said.

DEA Finds First True Drug Submarine

By Kiran Chetr, CNN, July 7, 2010

Drug smugglers have used planes, speedboats and even human "mules."

Now, DEA agents say they have found in a swamp in Ecuador the first completely submersible drug submarine. Similar vessels found before have only peeked above the surface. This discovery is a sign that traffickers are taking the battle even deeper. Jay Bergman is a regional director for the DEA and oversees all investigations in Columbia and Ecuador. He joined us on Wednesday's American Morning to discuss the implications of the find.

A fully functional submarine built for the primary purpose of transporting massive amounts of cocaine has been seized by Ecuadorean authorities with the help of U.S. drug enforcement agents.

A drug-trafficking organization built the sea-worthy vessel that is now being held near the border of Ecuador and Colombia, and one individual has been taken into custody, authorities said. The investigation into the group and the submarine, which was seized Friday, is ongoing.

"This is the first seizure of a clandestinely constructed fully operational submarine built to facilitate trans-oceanic drug trafficking," the Drug Enforcement Administration said in a statement.

The vessel utilized twin screws and was diesel electric-powered, the agency said. It was about 30 meters (98 feet) long and nearly 3 meters (nine feet) high from the deck plates to the ceiling. It has a periscope and an air-conditioning system.

"Traffickers historically employed slow-moving fishing boats, sail boats, pleasure craft go-fasts," said Jay Bergman, Andean regional director for the agency. "The advent of the narco-submarine presents new detection challenges for maritime interdiction forces. The submarine's nautical range, payload capacity and quantum leap in stealth have raised the stakes for the counter-drug forces and the national security community alike."

The submarine was constructed in a "remote jungle environment in an effort to elude law enforcement or military interdiction," the agency said.

Acting on intelligence, Ecuadorean authorities were able to seize the vessel for before its maiden voyage, the statement said.



July Birthdays

July 1st – Walter Gossfeld
July 1st – Sheri Grove
July 3rd – Rain Rainwater
July 3rd – J.W. Webber
July 5th – William Holland
July 6th – Ron Gorence
July 6th – Tom Hardin
July 10th – Mary Christians
July 11th – Bill Garrison
July 12th – Jim Flanders
July 13th – Don Underwood
July 13th – Jim MacDonald
July 13th – Sharon Hollaway
July 14th – Rick Pressly
July 16th – Scotty Stewart
July 16th – A. Meredith
July 18th – Ron Sagaert
July 19th – Dave Higgins
July 22nd – David Grove
July 23rd – Richard Becker
July 24th – Robert Mattson
July 26th – Hutch Hutchinson
July 29th – Sidney Logan
July 30th – Derrell Clements
July 30th – L. Richard

Happy Birthday!

--Wear your Dolphins - you earned them!--

The Chief Petty Officer's Prayer

Dear Lord...

So far today, God, I have lived my life as you would intend.

I haven't lost my temper.

So far I have not even grabbed the Chief's Mess Cook by the throat, like yesterday.

I have said nothing insulting or humiliating to any of the junior officers.

I haven't bitched about the coffee, the ship's schedule, the watch bill or Saturday's Personnel Inspection.

I have told no lies...

I have not cheated at poker.

I have put no ship's tools in my personal toolbox.

In short God, I believe that so far today I have committed no grievous sins.

Thank you, God for helping me stay righteous so far.

But Lord, its almost 0600 and in a little while I'm going to roll out of my bunk, and after that I think I will need a lot more help.

Amen.

----- Pride Runs Deep -----

**HAWGFISH SCUTTLEBUTT
IN GOD WE TRUST**

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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."



Razorback Base Executive Committee

| | | | |
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