



Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



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

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Upcoming Events:

Next meeting March 28 at 1600 at the American Legion Post in Little Rock
March 14th Little Rock St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 2009

Commander's Corner

As the March winds come in, so do our hopes for a nice spring. Hopefully, winter is almost behind us and we can look forward to gardening, lawn work and exciting base activities.

On March 14, the base is invited to the Little Rock St. Patrick's Day Parade. We will enter the parade with our banner and our sail float. Instead of a work day this month, we will spend the time at the parade and possibly a dinner at a local restaurant after the parade if attendees are willing. The parade begins at 1300, but we will gather at the boat at 1130 to make final preps and decorations on the float and then proceed over to the parade site. If you have a truck to pull the float and are willing to do so, please let me know. Also, we will get together on Friday, March 13 to clean up the float and get it ready for decorating on Saturday.

Our next meeting will be held at the American Legion Post at 315 East Capitol in Little Rock on March 28 at 1600. With the success of the guest speaker at the

last meeting, I am trying to get another lined up for this meeting. Don't know the subject yet.

Our June campout is shaping up. I have 4 RV sites reserved and 3 have already been taken. I have one left with only electric and water hookups. If anyone is interested in this site let me know at raywewers@suddenlink.net or 479-967-5541. If you want a site please let me know so I can reserve some more spots as this is the time of the year that the reservations come in to the park.

We need to commend John Barr on the great job he is doing as our membership chairman. At the last count, we have 202 members in our base including the loss of several non renewals. And speaking of membership, we are in the time period for competing with other central region bases to see which base can get the most recruits. A plaque will be awarded to the base with the most recruits between October, 2008 and August 15, 2009. So if you know of any potential new members get

them an application and encourage them to join us. We need some young, energetic members to help us continue our group. You can access an application on the base website. Print some off and carry them with you in your car just in case.

Remember the National Convention in San Diego this September. I have heard of several of our base members are attending, so get your hotel reservations in and fill out your registration form for the activities during the convention. You can get the information and forms at USSVI.org website and go to the convention link.

Hope that you all and your families are all doing well. Don't forget to let Carl Schmidt know of any illnesses or injuries to any of our shipmates and their families.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at our base activities in the future.

Ray Wewers,
Base Commander

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

[USS F-4 \[ex-SKATE\] \(SS23\)](#) **25-Mar-1915**. 19 men lost. Remarks: Hulk raised and reburied off Sierra 13 north of Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor.

[USS H-1 \(SS-28\)](#) **12-Mar-1920**. Four men lost.

[USS Perch \(SS-176\)](#) **3-Mar-1942**. 60 taken prisoner, 52 survived the war.

[USS Grampus \(SS-207\)](#) **5-Mar-1943**. All hands lost (72).

[USS Triton \(SS-201\)](#) **15-Mar-1943**. All hands lost (74).

[USS Tullibee \(SS-284\)](#) **26-Mar-1944**. 79 men lost, one taken POW and survived the war.

[USS Kete \(SS-369\)](#) **20-Mar-1945**. All hands lost (87).

[USS Trigger \(SS-237\)](#) **28-Mar-1945**. All hands lost (91).

USS GRAMPUS (SS-207) March 5, 1943 – 72 Men Lost



USS Grampus (SS-207), a Tambor-class submarine, was the sixth ship of the United States Navy to be named for two members of the dolphin family (Delphinidae): Grampus griseus, also known as Risso's Dolphin, and Orcinus orca, also known as the Killer Whale. Her keel was laid down by the Electric Boat Company of Groton, Connecticut. She was launched on 23 December 1940 sponsored by Mrs. Clark H. Woodward, and commissioned on 23 May 1941 at New London, Connecticut, with Lieutenant Commander Edward S. Hutchinson in command.

After shakedown in Long Island Sound, Grampus sailed to the Caribbean Sea with Grayback (SS-208) on 8 September to conduct a modified war patrol, returning to New London, Connecticut, on 28 September. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor found Grampus undergoing post-shakedown overhaul at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, but soon ready for war on 22 December, she sailed for the Pacific, reaching Pearl Harbor on 1 February 1942, via the Panama Canal and Mare Island.

On her first war patrol, from 8 February to 4 April 1942, Grampus sank an 8636-ton tanker, the only kill of her short career, and reconnoitered Kwajalein and Wotje atolls, later the scene of bloody but successful landings. Grampus's second and third patrols were marred by a heavy number of antisubmarine patrol craft off Truk and poor visibility as heavy rains haunted her path along the Luzon and Mindoro coasts. Both patrols terminated at Fremantle, Australia.

Taking aboard four coast watchers, men stationed on Japanese-held islands to radio back vital information on shipping, military buildup, and weather, Grampus sailed on 2 October 1942 for her fourth war patrol. Despite the presence of Japanese destroyers, she landed the coast watchers on Vella Lavella and Choiseul islands while conducting her patrol. This patrol, during the height of the Guadalcanal campaign, took Grampus into waters teeming with Japanese men-of-war. She sighted a total of four enemy cruisers and 79 destroyers in five different convoys. Although she conducted a series of aggressive attacks on the Japanese ships, receiving 104 depth charges for her work, Grampus was not credited with sinking any ships. She returned to Australia on 23 November.

Grampus's fifth war patrol, from 14 December 1942 to 19 January 1943, took her across access lanes frequented by Japanese submarines and other ships. Air and water patrol in this area was extremely heavy and although she conducted several daring attacks on the 41 contacts she sighted, Grampus again was denied a kill.

In company with Grayback, Grampus departed Brisbane on 11 February 1943, for her sixth war patrol from which she failed to return; the manner of her loss still remains a mystery. Japanese seaplanes reported sinking a submarine on 18 February in Grampus's patrol area, but Grayback reported seeing Grampus in that same area 4 March. On 5 March the Japanese destroyers Minegumo and Murasame conducted an attack in the Blackett Strait, near Kolombangara Island, on 5 March 1943. A heavy oil slick was sighted there the following day, indicating that Grampus may have been lost there in a night attack or gun battle against the destroyers. The destroyers were soon sunk in a night action with U.S. cruisers and destroyers.

When repeated attempts failed to contact Grampus, the submarine was declared missing and presumed lost with all hands. Her name was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 21 June 1943.

Grampus received three battle stars for World War II service. Her first, fourth, and fifth war patrols were designated successful.

"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 Calendars Still Available

Should any of our base members still desire to order one of these calendars, please let Billy Hollaway know and will attempt to get them for you. Not only is it a calendar, but a nice example of submarine memorabilia. Call 501-758-3266; mail at 3220 N. Cypress Street, North Little Rock, AR 72116; retldoun@earthlink.net.

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

Submarines are safer than airplanes.

Proof in the fact is there are more airplanes in the water than submarines in the air!

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

British, French Nuclear Submarines Collide

Accident occurred during "routine patrols," defense ministries say. Both vessels, HMS Vanguard, Le Triomphant, armed with nuclear warheads Anti-nuclear group: Incident is "a nuclear nightmare of the highest order"

LONDON, England (CNN) -- A British Royal Navy nuclear submarine and its French equivalent collided while on operations in the Atlantic Ocean earlier this month, defense ministries in Paris and London confirmed Monday.

Both vessels, HMS Vanguard and Le Triomphant, were armed with nuclear warheads and suffered damage as a result of the collision, which is understood to have occurred on February 3 or 4.

"Two "SNLE" (nuclear submarines), one French and the other British, were, a few days ago, on standard patrols in the Atlantic. They briefly came in contact in a very slow speed while they were immersed. There is no casualty or injury among the crew. Neither the nuclear deterrent mission nor the nuclear security have been compromised," the French Ministry of Defense said in a statement.

In an earlier press release issued on February 6, the Ministry of Defense said the vessel's sonar dome had been damaged in a collision. The vessel was able to return to its base at Ile Longue

in Brittany, northwest France, accompanied by a frigate.

The UK's Ministry of Defence also confirmed the incident. In a statement, the First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Jonathan Band said the collision occurred during "routine national patrols."

"Both submarines remained safe and no injuries occurred. We can confirm that the capability remained unaffected and there has been no compromise to nuclear safety," Band said.

HMS Vanguard returned to its home base at Faslane in Scotland under its own power on February 14. The UK's Sun newspaper reported that the vessel was towed back into its home base at Faslane in Scotland "with dents and scrapes visible on her hull." It is normal procedure for the vessels to be towed into dock, according to the Ministry of Defence press office.

Both the UK and French nuclear deterrent operations depend on complete secrecy, despite both countries' membership of NATO. But naval analyst Richard Cobbold told CNN that procedures would be in place to ensure that French and British submarines were routinely kept apart.

"Either one of these submarines was doing something different or somebody made a mistake -- but we don't know that," Cobbold said.

Both submarines were equipped with state-of-the-art sonar technology, but Cobbold said it was possible that neither was aware of the close proximity of the other vessel.

"Modern submarines are very, very quiet. In many types of water conditions they might not hear the approach of another submarine," he said.

But with both nations keeping at least one nuclear-armed submarine constantly at sea for the past 40 years, he said it was no surprise that they had eventually ended up in the same area of ocean.

"Even in an ocean the size of the North Atlantic the submarines are eventually going to be in the same patch of water at the same time," he said.

In a statement issued Monday, the UK-based Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament described the incident as "a nuclear nightmare of the highest order."

"The collision of two submarines, both with nuclear reactors and nuclear weapons onboard could have released vast amounts of radiation and scattered scores of nuclear warheads across the seabed," said CND chair Kate Hudson.

"The dents reportedly visible on the British sub show the boats were no more than a couple of seconds away from total catastrophe."

Hudson said the incident was the most serious involving a nuclear submarine since the sinking of the Russian Kursk in 2000 with the loss of the vessel's entire 118-man crew. HMS Vanguard, which was launched in 1992, is one of four submarines which make up the UK's nuclear deterrent. Its firepower includes 16 Trident II D5 missiles capable of delivering multiple warheads to targets up to a range of 4,000 nautical miles.

The 150-meter vessel carries a crew of 141 and is powered by a uranium-fueled pressurized water reactor. Vanguard Class submarines routinely spend weeks at a time underwater on patrol in the North Atlantic.

But contact with naval commanders and government officials, including the defense secretary and the prime minister, are maintained at all times by a "comprehensive network of communications installations," the Royal Navy Web site said.

Le Triomphant was launched in 1994 and entered service in 1997 and carries a crew of 111, according to the GlobalSecurity.org Web site. Its weapons include 16 M45 missiles capable of launching multiple nuclear warheads.

The UK has maintained a nuclear arsenal since 1956, with at least one nuclear-armed submarine somewhere at sea continuously since 1969.

In 2006 the government approved plans to update the Trident deterrent program. A new generation of submarines is due to be ready to replace the Vanguard Class

submarines by 2024. But the program, which is expected to cost around £20 billion (\$29 billion), has been heavily criticized by anti-nuclear campaigners.

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

1,000 Trident Patrols Marked at Subase Bangor

By Ed Friedrich

Thursday, February 26, 2009



USS Nebraska sailors Alan Autrand, right, and Mark Beecher looks at historical photos and schematics at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor's Plaza Ballroom on Thursday. The sailors were attending a ceremony marking the 1,000th patrol of a Trident submarine. (Photo by Maebel Tinoko | U.S. Navy)

After 1,000 patrols by Trident ballistic missile submarines, Navy officials said Thursday that their nuclear-deterrence role remains relevant long after the end of the Cold War.

Eight of the 14 Tridents are based at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, where a ceremony in honor of the 1,000-patrol milestone was held Thursday. Six operate out of Kings Bay, Ga. The Tridents carry more than half of the nation's nuclear warheads.

"You all deserve a genuine sense of accomplishment and pride today," said Adm. Kirkland Donald, director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion.

Donald was among seven admirals who spoke to 500 sailors, family members and supporters at Trident Ballroom. He quoted Gen. Colin Powell from a similar event in 1992.

"No one has done more to prevent conflict, no one has made a greater sacrifice for the cause of peace than you, America's proud missile submarine family," he said. "No other members of America's armed forces have been given so great a burden of responsibility as the sailors of the ballistic missile submarine force. No other members of America's armed forces have so earned America's trust."

The first Trident submarine, the USS Ohio, arrived at Bangor in August 1982, when peace with the Soviets was maintained through a high-stakes game of nuclear chicken. By the time the USS Wyoming completed the 1,000th Trident patrol on Feb. 11, 26 1/2 years later, stateless terrorists and unpredictable rogue nations had become the threats.

The 560-foot Ohio-class submarines known as Tridents were built in the 1980s and 1990s. They're the sea-based leg of the nation's strategic triad, together with intercontinental ballistic missiles and nuclear-armed bombers. Submarines are difficult if not impossible to detect, making them the most survivable piece of a deterrence strategy that's predicated on survival. If an enemy knows it can't wipe out all of its foe's nuclear weapons, it won't strike because it will be hit in return, the theory goes.

"Some called for the end of nuclear deterrence (after the Cold War)," Donald said. "Unfortunately, the proliferation of nuclear weapons has not stopped. Proliferation and uncertain intentions require our vigilance and support of nuclear deterrence. In the truest sense, nuclear deterrence embodies the idea of peace through strength."

Donald asked sailors and veterans who had made a patrol, and their families, to stand up and be recognized.

"Don't become victims of your own success," he said. "Stay engaged, stay meticulous and stay the course."

Ballistic missile submarines homeported at Bangor are the USS Henry M. Jackson (67 patrols), USS Alabama (67), USS Nevada (61), USS Pennsylvania (60), USS Kentucky (55), USS Nebraska (47), USS Maine (41) and USS Louisiana (34). The Bangor-based USS Ohio and USS Michigan made 65 and 67 patrols, respectively, before being converted to Tomahawk cruise missiles.

Kings Bay's Tridents are the USS Alaska (59 patrols), USS Tennessee (61), USS West Virginia (57), USS Maryland (52), USS Rhode Island (44) and USS Wyoming (38). The USS Florida (60 patrols) and USS Georgia (65) have been converted to Tomahawk missiles.

Tridents are the latest in a line of ballistic submarines that began in 1960. On July 20, 1960, of that year, the USS George Washington launched the first nuclear-capable missile from a submerged submarine. The Tridents' 1,000 patrol was the 3,839th strategic deterrent patrol overall.

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

Veterans Benefits in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

February 23, 2009

Background H.R. 1, signed into law on February 17, 2009 by President Barack Obama as The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, contains several items that are of particular import to veterans. Although one of the portions of the Act addresses offshore veterans in the Philippines, there is also relief included for disabled veterans at home, as well as for others.

Philippine Veterans: Veterans of the Philippines from World War II will receive recognition for their service during that war, as well as lump sum payments to all living Filipino World War II veterans, those receiving benefits already, as well as those who are not currently in receipt of disability benefits. The payments authorized amount to one time payments of \$9,000 to each non-US citizen veteran of the Philippines, and \$15,000 to each veteran of the Philippines who is a U.S. citizen and residing in the United States. The stimulus package sets aside 198 million dollars for the veterans of the Philippines. Of the over 200,000 Filipinos who fought for the United States in World War II, fewer than 18,000 are alive today.

The provision calls for benefits to be available to such veterans during a one-year period from the date of enactment. Veterans are being told to file as soon as they are eligible. Applications must be submitted by Feb. 16, 2010, and are currently being processed through the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office located in Quezon City at Camp Aguinaldo. Veterans living in the United States should contact their local VA Regional Office.

Disabled Veterans and those receiving Pension: Veterans in receipt of service-connected compensation or

non service-connected pension, as well as survivors in receipt of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), will receive a one-time stimulus payment of \$250. The legislation orders the Secretary of the Treasury to disburse a \$250 payment to each individual who fulfills the conditions set aside, for any month during the 3-month period ending with the month which ends prior to the month that includes the date of the enactment of this Act. Therefore, veterans in receipt of compensation and pension benefits during any of the months of November or December 2008, and/or January of 2009 are eligible for this payment.

The criteria for eligibility are listed as follows:

(iii) **VETERANS BENEFIT-**

A benefit payment described in this clause is a compensation or pension payment payable under-

(I) section 1110, 1117, 1121, 1131, 1141, or 1151 of title 38, United States Code; (II) section 1310, 1312, 1313, 1315, 1316, or 1318 of title 38, United States Code; (III) section 1513, 1521, 1533, 1536, 1537, 1541, 1542, or 1562 of title 38, United States Code; or (IV) section 1805, 1815, or 1821 of title 38, United States Code, to a veteran, surviving spouse, child, or parent as described in paragraph (2), (3), (4)(A)(ii), or (5) of section 101, title 38, United States Code.

The legislation also provides this benefit to citizens in receipt of certain Social Security benefits as well as those receiving benefits under the Railroad Retirement Benefit. Citizens are not entitled to receiving this benefit from multiple sources. If a veteran is also in receipt of one of these other benefits, the \$250 payment will only be issued once.

Plans call for an automatic matching system to be coordinated between the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Treasury Department to administer the funds. The specific regulation regarding this disbursement, yet to be written, will cover the details of the timeline by which veterans can expect to receive this payment, as well as recourse for veterans who believe they deserve this payment but have not been issued it.

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

Subs head far north for ICEX 2009

By Andrew Scutor
Tuesday Mar 3, 2009

Scores of sailors are headed to the frigid waters off the northern coast of Alaska for an exercise that will test undersea tactics in Arctic conditions.

Ice Exercise 2009 begins later this month and will last roughly two weeks, depending on ice conditions, according to Lt. j.g. Megan Issac, spokeswoman at Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, in Norfolk, Va. "Everything is based on the stability of the ice," she said.

The attack submarines that will participate are on the way. Helena left San Diego for northern waters Friday and Annapolis left Groton on Monday.

Before the submarines arrive, a temporary research camp of huts and tents is set up on the pack ice about 200 miles from the north coast of Alaska, near Prudhoe Bay. A tracking range is also set up. In addition to the two participating submarines, researchers from the University of Washington's Applied Physics Laboratory and personnel from the Navy's Arctic Submarine Laboratory will take part.

The most recent ICEX was held in 2007. The attack sub Alexandria and HMS Tireless of the British Royal Navy participated. Two British sailors died and one was injured aboard Tireless in an onboard explosion and fire during the exercise.

During the Cold War, U.S. submarines began operating frequently under polar ice. The first submarine to make a submerged transit across the top of the globe and reach the North Pole was Nautilus in 1958. The polar region has been subject to increased attention lately because of the effects of climate change and potential international competition for natural resources.

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



March Birthdays

- March 4th – Frank Tillery
- March 6th – James Baker
- March 8th – James Grinstead
- March 13th – Forrest Ramser
- March 15th – Eugene Haley

- March 16th – John Ranguette
- March 21st – Richard Nixon
- March 23rd – Tom McNulty
- March 23rd – Joe Ward
- March 23rd – Greg Schwerman
- March 24th – Dan Odenweller
- March 26th – Dick Childs
- March 26th – Steve Nawojczyk
- March 27th – Bonny Schmidt
- March 31st – Fred Wright

Happy Birthday!

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

Treasures Report: February 2009

BEGINNING BAL.:	\$ 5588.55
DEPOSITS:	
Dues Collected	170.00
2008 USSVI Raffle	50.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS:	220.00
EXPENSES:	
Dues Paid to National	295.00
Ships Store Expences	534.45
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$ 829.45
ENDING BALANCE:	\$ 4979.10
CHARITYS	
Boat Maintenance Fund	\$ 1253.03
Base Charity Fund	\$ 1700.00
USS Snook Memorial	\$ 1797.26
Regions Bank CD	\$ 5000.00
TOTAL IN BASE FUNDS =	\$14729.39

***Greg Schwerman
Base Treasurer***

ST. Patrick's Day!

March 17th



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**HAWGFISH SCUTTLEBUTT
IN GOD WE TRUST**

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