



The “MidWatch”



Sept. - Oct. 2009
Volume 15 - Issue 9

The monthly newsletter of Perch Base - USSVI Phoenix, Arizona

<http://perch-base.org>

What’s “Below Decks” in
the Midwatch

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Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol

OCTOBER ETERNAL PATROLS

USS WAHOO (SS-238)	11 Oct 1943	80 Lost
Japanese Air/Surface Attack		
USS DORADO (SS-248)	12 Oct 1943	76 Lost
Air Attack in S.W. Atlantic		
USS SEAWOLF (SS-197)	30 Oct 1944	99 Lost
Likely friendly fire off Morotai Island		
USS ESCOLAR (SS-294)	17 Oct 1944	82 Lost
Possible Japanese Mine, Yellow Sea		
USS SHARK (SS-314)	24 Oct 1944	87 Lost
Japanese Depth Charge Attack off Formosa		
USS O5 (SS-66)	20 Oct 1923	3 Lost
Rammed in Limon Bay, Canal Zone		
USS S44 (SS-155)	07 Oct 1943	55 Lost
Japanese Surface Attack in Sea of Okhotsk		
USS TANG (SS-306)	24 Oct 1944	78 Lost
Circular run of own Torpedo in Formosa Strait		

NEXT MEETING

12 noon, Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009
American Legion Post #105
3534 W. Calavar Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85053

2009 Booster and Float Support Members

Perch Base, USSVI, cannot support its on-going operations and provide funds for the Base's float activities on dues alone. While the Base tries to develop activities to raise additional funds, we salute the members, listed below, who have supported the base with additional contributions. Shipmates, we salute you!

These are the 2009 Contributors. Have you given you support?

Jerry Allston, Reynaldo Altos, Gary Bartlett, Ken Becker, Dick Bernier, Walt Blomgren, Bradley Butler, Michael Dahl, Jim Denzien, Howard Doyle, Joe Errante, John Graves, Dave Harnish, Stephen Hough, Davey Jones, Mike Keating, Darrell Lambert, DeWayne Lober, Burtis Loftin, George Marions, Ray Marshall, David Meese, Angus McPherson, Alan Miller, Tim Moore, James W. Newman, Craig Olson, Ernest Plantz, Stan Reinhold, Robie Robinson, Stanley Rud, Frank Rumbaugh (in memory), Garry Shumann, Rick Simmons, William Tippett, Forrest Watson, Donald Whitehead, Ed Wolf, Jerry Yowell, John Zaichkin, Ron Zomok.

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Sailing Orders



The all Arizona base fall picnic will be Oct. 17 at Picacho Peak State Park.

The park is 60 miles south of Phoenix at exit 216 off I-10.

The park Visitor center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The entrance gate closes from 10 p.m. - 5 a.m. Trails are closed from sunset to sunrise.

The picnic site is at the IRONWOOD ramada in the Harrington Loop. You can access this loop by taking an immediate left after the gatehouse, then cross the oncoming traffic lane and go up the hill.

Cost to enter the park is \$6 per car (four adults per car - each additional passenger over 14 years of age is \$2 per person.)

Lunch will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Tautog Base will provide hotdogs, hamburgers, buns, condiments, plastic knives and forks, paper cups, soft drinks, ice and paper plates. Attendees should bring a side dish to share with others.

Please bring lawn chairs, etc for your use.

There are three RV and tenting camping loops. Two are with electricity and water but Loop A does not.

Please go to AZStateParks.com to view and print a map of the park

As it gets closer to the date of the picnic, it would help the Tautog Base if we could get an estimate of people from each base that will be attending the picnic.

Stewart Hopper, Commander, Tautog Base USSVI

The Base will be participating in the Anthem Veterans Day Parade held on Saturday, Nov. 7. The Base float will be included and all hands are invited. More details will be sent electronically when they become available.

Veteran's Day - 2009 (Nov. 11) Plan on attending the annual Phoenix parade. Details will be announced later.

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Foundation Shipmates



These organizations and individuals have contributed to the Perch Base Foundation and deserve special recognition as "Foundations Shipmates." Perch Base members are encouraged to use these organizations as a way of saying, "thanks."

Avondale Toyota
Larry Harker Auto Repair Inc.
Fairings - Etc
White Shears Flowers
Frank Bono Metal Design
Southwest Steel Sales LLC
United Parcel Service (UPS)
David L. Meese, Jr. CPA PLC
ARC Impressions

From the Wardroom Base Commander's Message

Shipmates:

The National Convention has come and gone and it seemed to be quite successful. Our float was one of three that were on display. Mary and I had a fantastic time participating in the meetings and seeing old shipmates. Personally, I was disappointed with the lack of interaction with the International Submariners and the Canadian Submariners. I, for one, had hoped for a lot more.

We have an all AZ base picnic coming up on Oct. 17 at Picacho Peak State Park. All members should plan on attending. There will be additional information coming out soon.

The biggest downcheck from recent events has been the tragic and untimely loss of our friend and shipmate, Dave Harnish. He will be sorely missed.

Please plan to attend our next meeting on Oct. 10 and enjoy the fellowship with your shipmates.

Fraternally,

Jim Denzien, Base Commander

August Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #105, Phoenix, AZ at 1200 hours, 8 August 2009. Jim Denzien, Base Commander, called the meeting to order.

The "Call to Order" was led in a prayer of invocation by Walt Blomgren followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the standard ceremonial opening. The tolling ceremony was conducted for all boats lost in August and a moment of silence was observed for our shipmates on eternal patrol.

According to the sailing list, twenty-seven (27) members and guests were present. One new member, Joe Varese, was introduced and he shared his background with the membership. Joe is retired Navy having spent 21 years in the service of our country. Welcome aboard, Joe.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the July 2009 regular meeting be approved as published in the MidWatch monthly newsletter. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Dave Harnish reported on the base's financial status as of 01 August 2009. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Base Commander's Board of Directors Meeting Report

Items reported included but were not limited to the following:

1. The September Perch Base meeting is cancelled due to the USSVI National Convention. Then next general meeting will be Saturday, 10 October 2009.
2. Jim reported on the insurance presentation that Mert Bean made to the BOD. It informed us about the specifics of the policy. We need to get a few questions answered and hopefully some modifications to the policy will be forthcoming which will result in reducing some of the costs related to the premium.

Other items discussed were addressed in the normal course of the general meeting.

Reports of Officers and Committee Chairmen

Base Vice-Commander – Howard Doyle was not present.

Base Secretary – Tim Moore had nothing to report.

Base Treasurer – Dave Harnish had nothing to report.

Chaplain – Walt Blomgren welcomed Jim Nelson, Frank Bono and Tim Moore back after their recent absences due to medical issues.

Base Chief of the Boat – TBA

MidWatch Editor – Chuck Emmett inquired if everyone had received the last issue of the MidWatch in which he published a page entitled “Shipmates, we have decisions to make...” This was a solicitation for feedback from the membership asking for suggestions as to what we, as an organization, should have as an agenda, i.e., what should we be doing, what are we doing right, wrong, what would you, the membership, like us to be doing? Chuck received absolutely no responses back from this inquiry, which indicates a high degree of complacency on the part of the membership. Chuck will run the request for feedback for ideas in one more issue of the MidWatch. The next issue will be published in October. Even if you have no suggestions for ideas or improvement, let us know that you have at least read the inquiry and have nothing to offer at this time.

Base Storekeeper – DeWayne Lober reported that he had some good deals on hats and has about twenty (20) Perch Base Challenge Coins remaining for sale.

Membership Chairman/Webmaster – Ramon Samson was not present.

Historian – Jim Newman was not present.

Float Coordinator – Barry Bowers was not present.

Past Commander – Stan Reinhold had nothing to report.

Public Relations – Ben Acosta was not present.

Old Business

Jim Denzien reminded the group that the USSVI National Convention will be held 8 – 12 September 2009 at the Town & Country Resort in San Diego. It sounds like Perch Base will be well represented at the convention this year. A number of us will be “caravanning” on the morning of 8 September 2009. Chuck Emmett volunteered to tow the float. We would like to get underway at about 0800 departing from the Tolleson area. Anyone interested in joining the caravan should contact Jim Denzien, Chuck Emmett or Dave Harnish.

Jim made contact with Base Commander Hopper from Tautog Base and confirmed the All Arizona Base Picnic is still on for 17 October 2009 at Picacho Peak State Park located on I-10 half way between Phoenix and Tucson. Tautog Base will provide hamburgers, hot dogs buns, condiments and soft drinks. Participating base members should plan to bring a potluck dish to share with others.

New Business

With respect to float utilization, the next scheduled event is the USSVI National Convention in San Diego. We will need a float work party prior to this trip to make sure everything is “shipshape”. The work party will probably take place at Butch Deshong’s warehouse in East Mesa. Anyone who is interested in assisting should contact Jim. He will send out an e-mail with details about the work party as soon as it is scheduled.

Jim mentioned that we still need additional board members for the Perch Base Foundation. We also still need a Chief of the Boat and one member has expressed interest but his final decision is pending.

Jim announced that he had received an e-mail from Ray Samson who has resigned from his position as Webmaster and Membership Chair. Rick Simmons has stepped up to the plate and offered to take the Membership Chair position and Jim offered his gratitude and thanks to Rick. The rest of the officers and membership would also like to extend their thanks to Rick for volunteering. We will bring Rick up to speed as quickly as possible. Chuck Emmett volunteered to be Webmaster on an interim basis until we get someone to take over this responsibility. We are looking for someone with expertise in building, maintaining websites, so if any of the membership has this type of background, please step forward, and lend us a hand.

Jim made one last appeal for anyone who is willing or interested in helping us out with the COB responsibilities, Webmaster, or in any other capacity. We are always receptive to any members who will step forward and assist. We need new ideas and fresh faces to move the organization forward. This appeal also applies to the need for additional members on both the Perch Base Foundation and SOS Foundation boards. The Perch Base Foundation will include only Perch Base members. For the SOS Foundation, we will be going outside the organization with the emphasis on soliciting participation from former Phoenix Commission members. Their experience in the community will be invaluable to the organization.

Good of the Order

Jim Denzien welcomed Jim Nelson back after an extended absence for medical reasons. He also announced that Jim is scheduled for another surgical procedure the 17th of this month. Jim will probably be able to have visitors but potential visitors should call Nancy first to make sure it is O.K. Jim and Carolyn Newman have been out of town and will return tomorrow the 9th. Jim will be going in to have a polyp removed from his larynx on Tuesday the 11th. We need to keep these shipmates in our prayers for successful surgical procedures and speedy recoveries.

Rich Simmons gave a DVD to the base which is a movie starring Kevin Bacon called *Taking Chance*. He also gave one to Post 105. Anyone who wishes to watch the movie is welcome to borrow it from the base. Thanks to Rick Simmons for his generosity.

Tim Moore announced that the next Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) event will be Thursday, 27 August 2009 at Phoenix Children's Hospital located at SR51 and E. Thomas Road. Anyone interested in participating should plan on showing up between 1100 and 1115 hours and meet in the main lobby of Bldg. A. Davy Jones suggested that attendees should plan on arriving early because of construction in the area of the hospital.

Dave Harnish announced that an organization has been started up in the Bremerton area called the Silent Service Motorcycle Club. The dues are \$20.00 per year and Dave would like to start a chapter in the Phoenix area. Five riders are needed to start a chapter. Anyone interested should contact Dave and he will get you in touch with the right people.

Jim Denzien announced that our Annual Awards Banquet will be held in January 2010. It will be the third Saturday of January (16 January 2010) at the American Legion Post #105 pending their agreement for hosting the event on that date. Stan Reinhold will plan the dinner and the post will host the bar as was done at our last banquet. Walt Blomgren is in charge of coordinating the event and Barry Bowers will assist.

50/50 Drawing

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Sandy Martin who won and donated \$25.00 back to the Booster's Club.

Adjournment

All the outstanding business having been concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 1245 hours.

The benediction was offered by Walt Blomgren.

Tim Moore

Secretary, Perch Base USSVI



A Submariner's Prayer

"Eternal Father, strong to save
 Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
 Who biddest the mighty ocean deep
 Its own appointed limits keep.
 O hear us when we cry to Thee
 For those in peril on the sea.

Bless those who serve beneath the deep.
 Through lonely hour their vigil keep.
 May peace their mission ever be,
 Protect each one we ask of Thee.
 Bless those at home who wait and pray,
 For their return by night or day."

Do you know a shipmate who is on the lee side of a fair wind? Someone who could use the help of a shipmate? Remember, we are the "**Brotherhood** of the Phin."

Contact our Base Chaplain if you know of any way we can help:

Walt Blumgren
 5120 W. Gelding Dr.
 Glendale, AZ 85306
 (602) 843-3681
 wbwaltb@q.com



Dave Harnish

Dave Harnish, past Western Region Director, Commander of Phoenix, AZ's Perch Base, Subvets RV club wagon master and member of both Perch and Bremerton Base was killed on his motorcycle Sept 19. A driver broadsided him -- reportedly, an 18 yr old driver suspected of drug-related DUI -- who ran a red light.

Dave lived in Phoenix and retired in 1978 as a QMCM(SS). He served on a number of submarines and was COB of Gurnard 1970 through 1972. His last sea duty was aboard USS Dolphin.

Those of us spent some time with Dave at the San Diego Convention little knew that we know it would be our last opportunity to see our friend and shipmate.

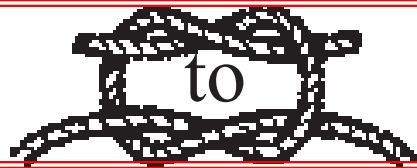
Dave, who is survived by three daughters and a son, lost his wife, Kay, to cancer in 2006.

Expressions of sympathy to the family may be sent to his daughter Lori Bergstedt at 6509 W Devonshire Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85033.

Rest your oar Master Chief, we have the watch.



Shipmate



Shipmate

Want the Base Float for an Event?

Take charge and use the following checklist:

1. Contact Barry Bowers (see contact information, below) and make sure he has it free on the float calendar and places your event on it.
2. Plan on who will staff the event. What coverage is required and who will man it when
3. Plan on who will pick up the float and tow it. (Remember, its now located in eastern Mesa, an almost 50 mile trip from the west side
4. Ensure the vehicle/person towing the float has insurance that will cover this action.
5. Ensure that someone on the crew that will setup the float has been checked out fully on the electronics and other float equipment.

Now that Perch Base has a world-class float, the USS Phoenix (SSN-702), the demands for usage have skyrocketed. So the base has a new position, the FLOAT COORDINATOR. If you know of a chance to show off the float, contact:

Barry Bowers
(623) 237-1121
barry85305@gmail.com

From USSVI National - Odds and Ends

=====
How to Request Military Service Records or Prove Military Service
Submitted by: Pat Householder on 7/16/2009

Several times recently I've been asked about this, so here it is again.

Most veterans and their next-of-kin can obtain free copies of their DD Form 214 (Report of Separation) and other military and medical records several ways:

Click on the link for this free service...

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/dd-214.html>

USSVI CONVENTION 2009 - SAN DIEGO

ODDS AND ENDS



Holland Club breakfast with some of Perch Base together. Junior vice Commander Bircumshaw rides herd.



Hmmm! More serious business. Now where is Davy Jones' other arm?



Commanders luncheon. Is that why our Commander looks so serious?



You just can't keep old nukes out of the engine room! Tour aboard the USS Midway, San Diego harbor.



Torpedo Room, USS Albuquerque (SSN-706) on a tour. The crew we saw were sharp. The sub service is in good hands.



What's this! Your MidWatch editor traded in his trusty C-182 for this!?



Perch Base September- October Birthdays



September

<i>Kirby Anderson</i>	Sep. 18
<i>Gary Bartlett</i>	Sep. 26
<i>Michael G. Bennett</i>	Sep. 4
<i>Ron A. Dutcher</i>	Sep.12
<i>Howard M. Enloe</i>	Sep.24
<i>Joe Errante</i>	Sep.4
<i>Stephen F. Hough</i>	Sep. 29
<i>Jack S. Kimball</i>	Sep. 28
<i>Darrell Lambert</i>	Sep. 29
<i>William Lund</i>	Sep. 5
<i>Alan Miller</i>	Sep.4
<i>Daniel J. Reel</i>	Sep. 7
<i>Wayne Kirk Smith</i>	Sep. 6
<i>Eugene B. Veek</i>	Sep. 5
<i>Edward J.Wolf</i>	Sep. 1

October

<i>Kenneth R. Anderson</i>	Oct. 5
<i>John Cash</i>	Oct. 10
<i>Butch Deshong</i>	Oct. 23
<i>Michael J. Haler</i>	Oct. 1
<i>Al Landeck</i>	Oct. 22
<i>Robert W. Lents</i>	Oct. 10
<i>Jim A. Nelson</i>	Oct. 8
<i>James A. Newman</i>	Oct. 29
<i>Craig. L. Olson</i>	Oct. 29
<i>Robie Robinson</i>	Oct. 6
<i>Stanley I. Rud</i>	Oct. 21
<i>Ken Schonauer</i>	Oct. 11
<i>Robert A. Sungy</i>	Oct. 14
<i>Martine "Marty" Zipser</i>	Oct. 31



DON'T LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP LAPSE - THERE IS NO GRACE PERIOD AFTER YEAR END

Shipmate,

Once again it's time to renew your membership with **USSVI** and **Perch Base**. The annual **USSVI** and **Perch Base** dues for those who are not a **Holland Club** member or **Life Member** in **USSVI** and **Perch Base** are listed below. Please send the applicable amount to the Base Treasurer along with the bottom portion of this letter in the enclosed self addressed stamped envelope.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Dues must be received and processed no later than December 31st or your membership will lapse. **USSVI IS NO LONGER GRANTING ANY GRACE PERIOD.** Please return your dues payment as soon as possible to avoid any interruption in membership.

This is a good time to consider becoming a **Life Member** of **USSVI** and **Perch Base**. The costs are age based and are as follows:

USSVI: 76+ Yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 = \$200; 56 thru 65 = \$ 300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00

Perch Base: 65 and over = \$50.00; 56 thru 64 = \$100.00; 45 thru 55 = \$150.00; Under 45 250.00
To become a Life Member of Perch Base you must also be a USSVI Life Member

Please keep in mind that we Submarine Veterans are a relative minority of the Armed Forces Veterans of this country. This is very apparent any time you visit an American Legion or VFW in most parts of the country. Having a place where you can spend time "with your own kind" to swap sea stories and be with others who have shared at least some of your experiences can be very special. Your shipmates want you around, we need your sea stories, so please renew today.

All members, including **Holland Club** and **Life Members**, are encouraged to support their Perch Base and it's ongoing activities with a donation to the **Booster Club**. Please show your support by sending a contribution and remember, no matter what the amount, it is appreciated. If you would like to make this a tax-deductible contribution, please make your check out to: **Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base Foundation**.

If you have any questions, please call Rick Simmons, Membership Chairman, at 623 583-4235 or Jim Denzien at 623 547-7945.

----- Cut Along This Line -----

Please Return This Portion With Your Remittance

USSVI Dues: (1 Year \$20, 3 Years \$55, 5 Years \$90) Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Perch Base Dues: (\$10) Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Perch Base Booster Club: Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

I am a; Holland Club Member: ____ USSVI Life Member: ____ Perch Base Life Member: ____

Please make any necessary corrections to the following:

Name:-

Address

City, State Zip+4

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Do you need help getting to Base meetings /events? (Yes/No) _____

Are you interested in car-pooling to Base Meetings/events? (Yes/No) _____



Eternal Patrol October 24, 1944


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



USS Shark (SS-314)
October 24, 1944
87 men

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.

The Balao Class was an evolutionary improvement over the earlier [Gato](#) class, the boats had slight internal differences. The most significant improvement was the use of higher [yield](#) steel in the [pressure hull](#), which increased their [test depth](#) to 400 feet. There were 132 submarines ordered in this class (10 cancelled toward the end of World War II.)

Displacement: 1,526 tons surf., 2,424 tons sub.
 Length: 311ft 9 in, Beam: 27 ft 3in, Draft: 15 ft 3in
 Test depth: 400ft., Speed: 20 knots surf., 9 knots sub.
 Armament: 10 x 21 in torpedo tubes (6 forward, 4 aft, 24 torpedoes)
 1 x 5/25 cal AA gun, 1 x 40mm AA Canon, 1 x 3/50 cal and 2 x .30 cal machineguns)
 Crew: 80 – 85 officers and men
 Powerplant: •4 x 1350 hp 16cyl GM 278A diesels
 (except SS228-239 and SS275-284 10cyl Fairbanks-Morse 38D-1/8),
 •2 x 1370 hp GE electric motors
 (except SS228-235 Elliott Motor or SS257-264 Allis-Chalmers)
 (two 126-cell Exide main storage batteries
 {except SS.261, 275-278, & 280 Gould})
 Range: •11,800 nm at 10 knots surf, 100nm at 3 knots sub.
 Submerged Endurance: 48 hours

USS Shark (SS-314), a Balao-class submarine, was the sixth ship of the United States Navy named for the shark, a large marine predator.

Her keel was laid down at the Electric Boat Company in Groton, Connecticut, on 28 January 1943. She was launched on 17 October and commissioned on 14 February 1944 with Commander Edward Noe Blakely in command.

Following shakedown off New London, Connecticut, Shark transited the Panama Canal and arrived at Pearl Harbor on 24 April 1944 for final training in the Hawaiian area. Her first war patrol commenced on 16 May 1944 in waters west of the Mariana Islands as part of a coordinated attack group with submarines Pintado (SS-387) and Pilotfish (SS-386). Early on the morning of 2 June, Shark submerged ahead of an enemy convoy and fired a spread of torpedoes at a Japanese tanker. Although all torpedoes missed the original target, they all continued on to hit and sink another enemy vessel, the 4,700-ton cargo ship, Chiyo Maru. After evading an ensuing depth charge attack, the submarine continued her patrol.

On 4 June, Shark began tracking another heavily escorted convoy, and, in maneuvering for attack, encountered a patrolling destroyer dead ahead. Upon failing in a maneuver for a "down-the-throat" shot, the submarine passed down the port side of the enemy at 180 yards and launched four torpedoes toward a heavily laden cargo ship. She was rewarded with four solid hits that quickly sent Katsukawa Maru to the bottom. After escaping from the aroused escort ships, Shark surfaced and continued the chase. She caught up with the convoy on the afternoon of 5 June, and after nightfall, let go a spread of six torpedoes, which sank the 3,080-ton freighter, Tamahime Maru, and the 7,006-ton passenger-cargo ship, Takoka Maru. Shark again evaded the escort ships, then surfaced near midnight, but was unable to catch up with the convoy. The remainder of the patrol was unproductive, and the submarine returned to Midway Island for refit on 17 June.

Shark put to sea on 10 July for her second war patrol, this time in the waters off the Volcano Islands and Bonin Islands.

On 19 July, she launched four torpedoes at an enemy convoy, but they missed their mark as the convoy made a sharp “zig” away. On 1 August, Shark was again frustrated in an attack on a Japanese convoy when, while moving into firing position, three escorts forced her to take evasive action, allowing the convoy to escape. The following afternoon, the submarine set course for Iwo Jima where she took up lifeguard station in support of carrier airstrikes.

On the afternoon of 4 August, Shark rescued two aviators from a crashed Lexington (CV-16) torpedo bomber. She terminated her lifeguard duties on 19 August and touched at Midway Island before arriving at Pearl Harbor ten days later.

Shark was lost during her third war patrol, probably near Luzon Strait, while participating in a coordinated attack group with submarines Seadragon (SS-194) and Blackfish (SS-221). On 24 October, Seadragon received a message from Shark stating that she had made radar contact with a single freighter, and she was going in to attack. This was the last message received from the submarine. She was reported as presumed lost on 27 November.

Shark received one battle star for World War II service.

Japanese records examined after the war indicate that on 24 October 1944, in Luzon Strait, Japanese destroyer Harukaze made contact with a submerged submarine and dropped depth charges. After losing and regaining the contact, the destroyer dropped another 17 depth charges, which resulted in “bubbles, heavy oil, clothes and cork” coming to the surface.



Submarines of Today ??

Females proposed for Submarine Duty

Navy Set to Crew Subs with Female Sailors

by Christian Lowe, Military.com, September 25, 2009

Breaking with a tradition that spans more than half a century, the Navy is in the final planning stages to integrate female Sailors into its submarine fleet.

Long considered one of the most elite communities in the U.S. Navy, the small, secretive force has been comprised entirely of male officers and crew in large part because of the small living spaces and long endurance missions.

The service had examined assigning a small number of females on subs over the last ten years, but found the tight confines and lack of a well-defined career path for female submariners too daunting to change. Until now.



“Having commanded a mixed gender surface combatant, I am very comfortable addressing integrating women into

the submarine force,” said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead in a statement to Military.com. “I am familiar with the issues as well as the value of diverse crews.”

“This has had and will continue to have my personal attention as we work toward increasing the diversity of our Navy afloat and ashore,” he added.

According to a senior commander in the Navy’s submarine fleet who spoke to Military.com on condition of anonymity, incoming Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus has charged the service with overcoming past objections and assigning females to subs – breaking down one of the last barriers in the service to female assignments.

“We have now received a signal from the secretary of the Navy that he’s ready to move out on this. We have never had that signal before,” the senior sub commander said. “So now it’s time to do some detailed planning to ensure that this is executable.”

The official said the submarine fleet would likely not see female crewmembers for at least two years, but he said it was a change whose time had come.

“There is no job on a submarine that a woman can’t do,” the official said during a Sept. 25 phone interview. “We have a vast pool of very talented young women out there who want to serve on submarines.”

The official agreed to speak with Military.com after reports indicated that Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman – and former Chief of Naval Operations – Adm. Mike Mullen told lawmakers he was pushing the service to lift the ban on women in the so-called “silent service.”

One of the biggest obstacles to the integration is technical – how can the Navy make accommodations on such

small vessels for female crew, such as separate heads and bunks? The official said integrating females into the ballistic missile submarine fleet would be less of a challenge than on the attack sub fleet, where he said “we really don’t have much room to store the toilet paper much less make up a new bathroom” for female crew.

It’s likely that the first female submariners will be officers and that they will be assigned to the larger, ballistic missile submarines, or “boomers.” The officer accommodations on subs include two- and three-man staterooms and a shared head that could easily be made unisex, the official said.

“The plan for officers involves no physical changes to the ships,” the official said, adding that rough estimates of changes for enlisted crew on ballistic missile subs and cruise missile subs run below \$10 million per ship.

The official estimates assigning as many as five female officers per sub.

With the enlisted cadre, it’s a much more difficult proposition. Not only is there the amount of physical space to consider, but also the career paths and non-commissioned officer leadership to build, the official said.

Navy officials agree that females must be at least 20 percent of the sub’s crew – meaning 20 women on an attack sub, for example – so that the women don’t feel isolated and have “mutual support” from Sailors of the same gender.

Sub fleet leaders also want to make sure there are enough qualified chief petty officers to lead and mentor those female crewmembers.

“Eventually [the Navy] will need to retain enough of the women coming in so that they can eventually provide that leadership,” the Navy official said. “We need to have a program and a plan in place that is self-sustaining [and] not always dependent on the surface fleet to get petty officers and officers.”



But perhaps the biggest challenge to integrating women into the submarine fleet is cultural.

For decades a male-dominated community whose long-endurance missions and distance from logistical support make living and working on a submarine a sometimes dirty job with little privacy (attack submarine crew share bunks when not on duty), the idea of placing women in such close confines worries both veteran submariners and spouses who fear distraction from the job or infidelity.

“The idea is likely to be unpopular with some traditionalist submariners, who long have believed that the lack of any physical and mental privacy whatsoever and the claustrophobic confines make the idea unworkable,” said Joe Buff, a noted expert on submarine warfare, novelist, and Military.com contributor.

“Some wives of submariners have also expressed concern over fraternization, which has at times been an issue in the surface Navy and on diesel subs of other nations that have had co-ed crews.”

No matter the rumblings within the fleet and from vets and spouses, SecNav Mabus told Military.com in a statement his service is “moving out aggressively on this.”

“I believe women should have every opportunity to serve at sea, and that includes aboard submarines,” he added

Has it worked already



**Commander Tom Phillips, CO
HMAS Farncomb
Royal Australian Navy**

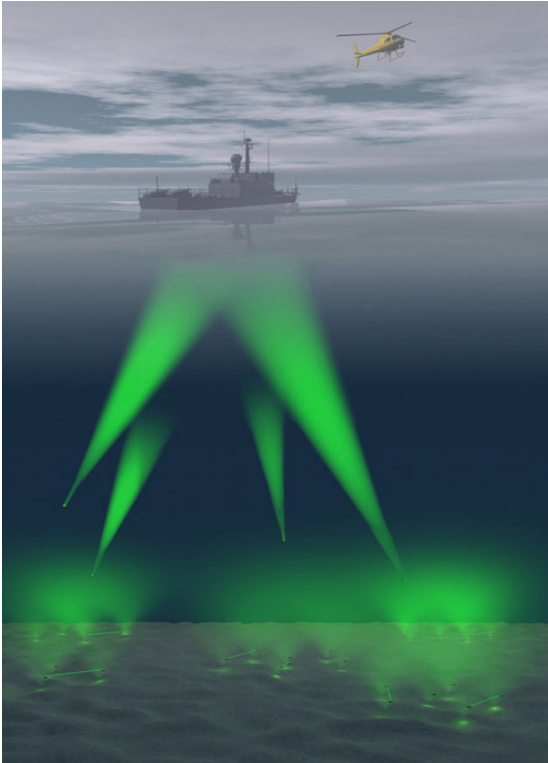


**Female sailors in their
suggested RAN bikini
uniforms**



Underwater Lasers Change Everything

StrategyPage.com, September 10, 2009



Finally, there are lasers that can be used communicating underwater. This is done by using a laser pulse tuned to ionize water, and generate an acoustic pulse. Thus, surface ships or aircraft could communicate with suitably equipped subs. This stuff is still in the lab, but given the need for underwater communications, there is lots of incentive to get it into service. If this survives development and testing, it will revolutionize submarine operations.

For years, researchers have been trying to find ways to use lasers to detect submarines, or to enable underwater communications. So far, it has been found that blue-green lasers can reach some ten meters beneath the surface, and be used for detection and communication. These are not terribly useful for subs (which typically stay farther down than ten meters), although work continues on using this capability to search for bottom mines in shallow waters.

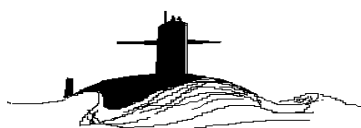
Two years ago, the U.S. Navy completed development of this system, which enabled nuclear subs to communicate with the rest of the world that, normally, could not be done until the boat came close to the surface and poked a radio antenna above the surface. The Deep Siren, or “tactical paging system”, provided a practical solution to the problem of communicating with a submerged sub. The system consists of a disposable buoy, which is dropped in the water, by an aircraft or over the side of a ship, in the general area (within about 90 kilometers) where the sub is believed to be. The buoy sends out an acoustic signal that U.S. subs are equipped to pick up automatically. This coded message either orders the sub to

get a radio antenna above water and call home, or simply delivers a brief message. The buoy also has a satellite telephone capability, so that additional messages can be sent from anywhere, to the sub. The sub cannot send messages to the buoy (because powerful sensors are required to pick up the signals). In the past, the only way to “page” submerged subs was via a large, shore based, low frequency, transmission system. This system was less reliable than the new one, although it had a much longer range.

The navy recently successfully tested the other end of the system. To do this, the sub releases a similar buoy through its garbage chute. The buoy hovers for a while (so the sub can move away), then rises to the surface and sends its messages. Thus, the buoy signal will not give away the exact location of the boat. The buoy then receives messages (short ones) and uses a sonar type device to send the data acoustically, for up to 90 kilometers, to the sub. Outgoing messages, which are sent via satellite, can be longer, and even include outgoing email from the crew to family. But the acoustically transmitted messages are much shorter, and include orders from the surface ships, or anyone in the chain of command, to the sub commander.

Deep Siren can also be useful for American carrier task forces, which are usually accompanied by at least one SSN (nuclear attack sub.) Because thermal layers make underwater transmissions vary a great deal in range, the buoy sends the command messages several times to insure at least one gets through. The buoy from the sub can stay active for several days, if the sub is remaining in the area. But eventually, the buoy sinks itself.

The U.S. Navy has spent about \$10 million on Deep Siren so far, mainly to install it in some subs and test it. These tests continue, to see how reliable it would be under realistic conditions. Raytheon apparently believes the Deep Siren isn't ready for prime time yet, but for security reasons, isn't discussing what the problems are.



Return To:

U. S. Submarine Veterans, Perch Base
7011 West Risner Road
Glendale, AZ 85308

<http://perch-base.org>



NEXT MEETING

12 noon, Saturday, October 10, 2009
American Legion Post #105
3534 W. Calavar Rd., Phoenix, 85053
(1/2 block northwest, 35th Ave. & Thunderbird)