



June 2006  
Volume 12 - Issue 6

**What's "Below Decks"  
in the Midwatch**



<http://perch-base.org>

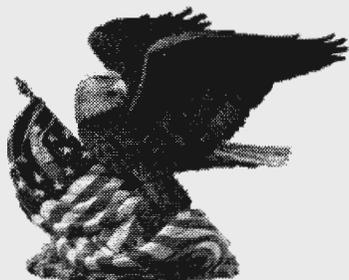
ITEM	PAGE NO.
Title Page	1
2006 Booster Club Members	2
Sailing Orders(upcoming activities)	3
List of Base Officers	3
American Legion Post Change Form	4
"A Special Thanks"	5
"From the Wardroom"	6
2006 Western Region 1 District Election	6
2006 National USSVI Officer Candidates	7
May - Meeting Minutes (to be added later)	7
SubVettes -May Meeting Minutes	9
SubVettes - From Beyond the Wardroom	9
White Mountain Base - Minutes	10
Lost Boat - U.S.S. Herring (SS-233)	11
Submarines of Today: Pakistani Submarines	12
Submarines of Today: . . . Safe And Effective Nuclear Propulsion Vital	14
Mailing Page	16

**Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol**

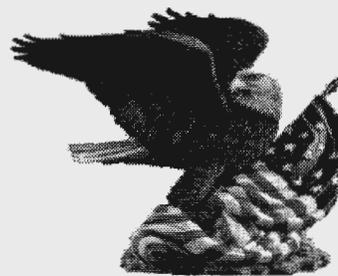
JUNE ETERNAL PATROLS			
<b>USS Herring</b>	<b>SS233</b>	<b>June 1, 1944</b>	<b>84 men</b>
<b>USS Gudgeon</b>	<b>SS211</b>	<b>June 7, 1944</b>	<b>78 men</b>
<b>USS R-12</b>	<b>SS89</b>	<b>June 12, 1943</b>	<b>42 men</b>
<b>USS Golet</b>	<b>SS361</b>	<b>June 14, 1944</b>	<b>82 men</b>
<b>USS Bonefish</b>	<b>SS223</b>	<b>June 18, 1945</b>	<b>85 men</b>
<b>USS S-27</b>	<b>SS132</b>	<b>June 19, 1942</b>	<b>none</b>
<b>USS O-9</b>	<b>SS70</b>	<b>June 20, 1941</b>	<b>34 men</b>

**REGULAR MEETING**  
June 17, 2006  
American Legion Post #105  
3534 W Calavar Rd.  
Phoenix, AZ

The Perch Base USSVI is not able to totally support itself financially on the dues collected from its members. There has, to date, been no successful and ongoing plan since the base was formed to produce any other steady and effective source of income. Therefore, the Base has relied on additional donations from members -- usually given at membership renewal -- for its survival. Listed below are those charitable givers, known as the Booster Club.



## 2006 Booster Club



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



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# Sailing Orders



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## REGULAR MEETING

June 17, 2006

American Legion Post #105

3534 W Calavar Rd.

Phoenix, AZ

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### 2007 SUBMARINE BIRTHDAY BALL!

We are considering the possibility of having a Submarine Anniversary Birthday Ball in April or May of 2007. We have sent an inquiry out to the other Arizona bases to see if they are interested in participating. The celebration would be over a weekend with the main event being Saturday night. For preliminary planning purposes, we would like to know how many of our members and their friends would be interested in participating in this event. If you think you and your spouse, or significant other, and some of your friends would attend this event we want to know by the end of June. If you are interested in attending a Submarine Birthday Ball in April or May 2007, please R.S.V.P. the number of people in your group who will be attending to either:

Jim Denzien or Tim Moore

602-332-3925 602-574-3286

[jdenzien@cox.net](mailto:jdenzien@cox.net) [seawolfssn575@qwest.net](mailto:seawolfssn575@qwest.net)

It is important that you let us know by the end of June. Our next planning committee meeting is in July and if this event is to be successful we need to begin planning immediately. Again, please respond no later than Friday, June 30, 2006. Thank you.

Tim Moore, Commander, Perch Base USSVI

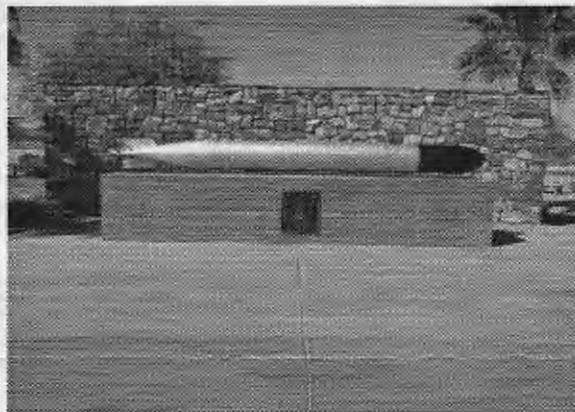
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**Are you an American Legion member but not affiliated with our new host Post? Use the form on the next page to change -- and support -- Post #105.**

**Fill out the form and give it to any local Post member (Bob Gilmore, COB, will be glad to take it.)**



# ***A SPECIAL THANKS!***



**On behalf of Perch Base USSVI, I want to pass along a "Special Thanks" to Dale Murphy, Assistant Manager and Dave Mitch, Manager at The Home Depot #475 located on the Southwest corner of 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Loop 101.**

**I am extremely grateful for their generous contribution towards the purchase of materials we needed for refurbishing the USS Perch Memorial at the National Veterans Cemetery. The project was completed on time and within the budget due to their assistance.**

**We can all show our appreciation by visiting The Home Depot #475 for our home improvement needs. Again, they are located at 6160 W Behrend Drive on the Southwest corner of 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Loop 101.**

**And again Dale and Dave, thank you for your kind support. We did it and Home Depot helped!**

**Sincerely,**

**Tim Moore, Commander, Perch Base USSVI**

## From the Wardroom

### MEMORIAL DAY 2006

Dear Shipmates,

Like last year, again this year I want to thank all of you who attended the Memorial Day services at the National Veteran's Cemetery. We had another terrific Memorial Day ceremony and were well represented by our Perch Base shipmates and their family members. As in the past, I again heard very favorable comments from first time attendees about how impressed they were with the ceremony, what a wonderful moving and emotional event they had just experienced, and are already looking forward to next year's services. It seems the attendance grows each year — as it should. If you have never attended one of these ceremonies, doing so will put the Memorial Day experience in a whole new perspective for you and your families. Attending will make you completely understand and have a greater appreciation for what the real meaning of Memorial Day is and why it is such an important day of remembrance.

There were a number of dignitaries present, including our Governor, and several of them addressed the audience. I heard numerous comments in favor of and supporting veterans and veterans' affairs. One activity that was announced and I am in favor of supporting, is the USS Arizona Memorial project in Pearl Harbor. The memorial is sinking and in need of renovation. I would like to get the word out to all hands, nationwide, and perhaps we can get support from the USSVI at the national level. In addition to raising money, I am sure there are a number of things we could do, as a group, to spread the word in the community about the memorial project. I feel this is a most worthwhile cause and would be interested in your feedback regarding this issue.

At the conclusion of the main service there was an announcement that we would be having a Tolling ceremony at the USS Perch Memorial. I want to especially thank Dave Harnish and Glenn Herold for conducting the ceremony. We had a good turnout and Dave and Glenn did a superb job which was appreciated by all who attended. And in closing, I again want to thank our shipmates who assisted in making the USS Perch Memorial "shipshape". My guess is that a number of you have never seen it so hopefully the photos in this issue of the Midwatch, will entice you to visit the memorial site. Take your families with you, I think you will be impressed with what you see and will be encouraged to join us at the ceremony next year.

Fraternally,

Tim Moore, Commander, Perch Base USSVI

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## 2006 Western Region One District Commander Election.

At the June meeting, a vote will take place for our USSVI District Commander. Glenn Herold is running unopposed for re-election. Our USSVI By-Laws, Article VII, Section 6 is silent on election by acclamation. However, Robert's Rules of Order, Section 45, states that "when only one nominee is put up and the By-Laws do not require a ballot...thus effecting the election by general consent or 'acclamation'."

If a member is not able to attend, he may email his vote to the Base Commander. Tim will tally the number of votes after waiting a reasonable time period and report the vote tally for Perch Base.

Although Glenn is running unopposed, write in votes are permitted.

Please plan on attending the June meeting to vote, but if you can't, please send your choice for District Commander via e-mail to Tim Moore.

## 2006 National USSVI Officer Candidates

Shipmate Steve Russo, chairman of the Nominations and Resolutions Committee has released the names of the candidates for National Office. They are:

**National Commander:** Tom Conlon, *Incumbent*

Art Randal (currently serving as Central Region Director)

**National Senior Vice Commander:** Jim Foote, *Incumbent*

**National Junior Vice Commander:** Pat Householder, *Incumbent*

**National Secretary:** Alfred Singleman (served as ED5 Commander)

**National Treasurer:** Jon Jaques, *Incumbent*

## May Meeting Minutes

***May meeting minutes were not available at MidWatch publication time. They will be added as they become available.***

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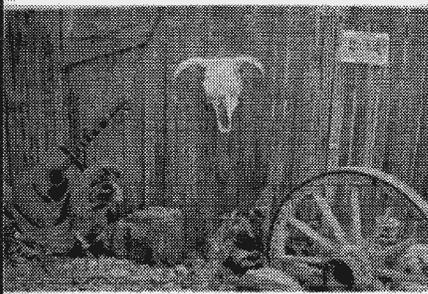
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## *SUBVETTES MEETING MINUTES*

### *May*

The twenty-sixth monthly meeting of the SubVettes of Perch Base was held May 20 at Taylor's Chowder House located on the NW corner of 35th Ave and Thunderbird. The meeting was called to order by our President Nancy Nelson at 13:20 hours. She then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The raffle prize is a beautiful statue of "Dolphins with Anchor."

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

We received an email from our national president Rita Kreul, requesting a hand made donation to them to raffle off to raise money for the National Treasury. This was discussed and we decided to send the afghan that was won in the convention we had in Laughlin in April. Rita also requested we send articles or information on our Base for a May newsletter. We don't have time to submit anything for that one, but maybe for the next one, whenever it comes out.

Our prayer circle is going to be busy this month, we have a lot of people to keep in our prayers. First, Kathryn is doing well, that's a plus. Our vice president, Kay, is still in our prayers, her cancer is back and she's going to have to do a little more radiation in these next few weeks. MaryGrace Veek is back in the hospital. They have to do another hip replacement. Evidently they didn't do the job right the first time. So, she's in need of our prayers. Sandy Bernard, our Chaplain, is in need of our prayers for her husband who is in the hospital at this time. Hiromi Povio can use some of our prayers also. Her father in law is dying.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The memorial Day Services were held on May 29th. I hope all of you were there. It's really something to see.

Starting in June, the Chowder House will no longer be able to give us the current room to hold our meetings all to ourselves. We will be meeting in the general seating area. This was discussed and because of the summer, when there will be so few of us, we figure we can sit in the other room, and quietly carry on our business.

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

Happy birthday wishes go to all of our June Babies:

Sandy Bernard — June 1  
Jacque Hawkins — June 6  
Marge Robinson — June 17

#### **DRAWING**

The statue won by Roberta Landeck. CONGRATULATIONS! Bobbi

We had 6 in attendance today. We adjourned at 13:45 hours.

## **From Beyond the Wardroom**

### **Perch Base SubVettes**

I hope you all enjoyed the ceremonies at the Memorial Day and D-Day events. These are special days for all our Veterans.

Our next meeting will be held at the Taylor's Chowder House, next door to the American Legion Post #15, at 12:30PM on June 17, 2006, hope to see you all there.

*HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO OUR JULY BABIES:*

*Bobbi Landeck – 7/10*  
*Betty Weber – 7/22*

Enjoy life.....come to the meeting & embrace your SubVettes.

Regards,

Nancy Nelson, President, SubVettes of Perch Base

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Doug Eddy  
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Heber, AZ 85928  
(928) 535 3388

**White  
Mountain**



**Base**

**OUR CREED:**

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



**Meeting Minutes**

Members present at the May 20 meeting were: Jim Clewett, Steve Day, Buck Biddle, Dick Jarenski, Frank Nagle, Dee Lefevre, Phil Caster, Ken Shade, Armand Deprins and Adam Dijkman. Also attending were Doug Furst and John Allbritton who are members of USSVI and other bases.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am with a prayer, reading of our creed and tolling of the bell. Guests present were; Chris Bowyer, Doug Furst, Jim Tipton, Sue Rainey, and John Allbritton. The April minutes were read, a motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes. The Treasurer reported that we have collected \$1200 for the golf tournament to date, and have \$800.05 in expenses, and that we have \$1,632.59 in the base treasury. A motion was made, seconded and passed to award the 1<sup>st</sup> place team at the Golf tournament \$300. Help is needed for set-up prior to the Golf Tournament (6:30 am).

The Base elections will be held in September – anyone interested in running for office show up or let someone know.

Jim will be away from June 14<sup>th</sup> to September. Dick will not be at the July meeting, which will be in Young at Dee's place. The Submarine Float will be at the Golf Tournament, at the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting at G. N. Santi's at Bison Ranch in Heber, and in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade in Show Low.

Dick asked that the Base to consider adding Alice House (the new abused women's shelter in Winslow) as a beneficiary of the Golf Tournament next year. A motion was made, seconded and passed to sponsor the Show Low Naval Recruiter to the Golf Tournament.

Jim asked everyone to start thinking about the Christmas Party for the next meeting.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Doug Furst who donated the \$19 to the Golf Tournament.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 pm.

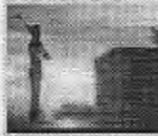
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**Lois Keating**  
*Office Manager*



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## Eternal Patrol June 1, 1944

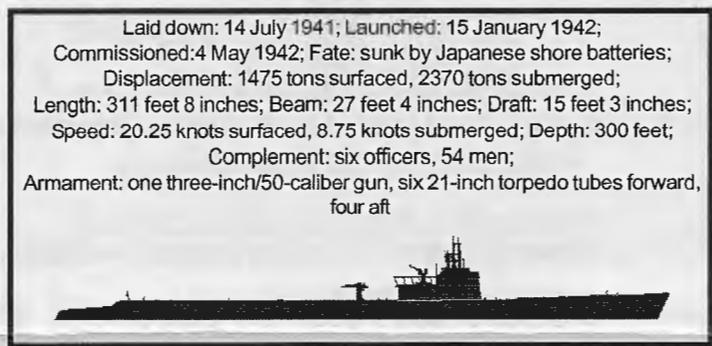
Editors Note: *Less we forget, each month, one boat on eternal patrol will be highlighted in this newsletter. Sailors, rest your oars.*

### The Final Patrol

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  
Oof our departed shipmates still on patrol  
Let them know that we who survive  
Will always keep their memories alive.



### U.S.S. Herring (SS-233) 83 men lost



Laid down: 14 July 1941; Launched: 15 January 1942;  
Commissioned: 4 May 1942; Fate: sunk by Japanese shore batteries;  
Displacement: 1475 tons surfaced, 2370 tons submerged;  
Length: 311 feet 8 inches; Beam: 27 feet 4 inches; Draft: 15 feet 3 inches;  
Speed: 20.25 knots surfaced, 8.75 knots submerged; Depth: 300 feet;  
Complement: six officers, 54 men;  
Armament: one three-inch/50-caliber gun, six 21-inch torpedo tubes forward,  
four aft

HERRING, under Lt. Cmdr. D. Zabriskie, Jr., left Pearl Harbor on May 16, 1944 to conduct her eighth patrol in the Kurile Islands. On May 21st she topped off with fuel at Midway and departed for the Kurile region. No word was received from HERRING direct after her departure from Midway, but she did accomplish a rendezvous with BARB on May 21, 1944.

These two boats were to patrol the Kurile Islands area cooperatively, and at the rendezvous, as recorded in BARB's report of her eighth war patrol, the areas for which each was to be responsible were delineated. A few hours after leaving HERRING early on the afternoon of May 31st, BARB made contact with two Japanese merchantmen. While developing the contacts BARB heard distant depth charging, which she took as an indication that HERRING was making an attack.

Later that evening BARB picked up a prisoner who revealed that HERRING had sunk the escort vessel of the convoy BARB had been attacking. The ship sunk was ISHIGAKI, a new type DE built in 1942, and it was sunk with one torpedo hit. The sinking resulted in the scattering of the three-ship convoy and two ships, which subsequently passed near BARB, were sunk by her. Post-war information reveals that HERRING sank the third merchantman of the convoy.

On June 3, 1944 orders were sent to BARB and HERRING directing them to stay outside of a restricted area in which friendly surface ships would be operating during the Marianas Campaign. A receipt was required for this message, but none was heard from HERRING. BARB was unable to contact her after May 31st. Consequently on June 27th, Midway was directed to post a sharp lookout for HERRING, which might be returning without ability to transmit by radio, and was expected by July 3rd or 4th. When she had not appeared by July 13, 1944, HERRING was reported as presumed lost.

Japanese information indicates that HERRING was sunk on June 1, 1944, two kilometers south of Point Tagan on Matsuwa Island in the Kuriles. The report states that two merchant ships, HIBURI MARU and IWAKI MARU, were sunk by American torpedoes while at anchor at Matsuwa. In a counterattack, a shore battery scored two direct hits on the conning tower, and "bubbles covered an area about 5 meters wide, and heavy oil covered an area of approximately 15 miles." The position of this attack was around 150 miles from the position where HERRING met BARB: the attack occurred on the day after the BARB picked up her prisoner. BARB and HERRING were the only U.S. submarines in the area at the time and BARB did

not make attacks reported by BARB and by the Japanese, HERRING has been credited with four ships and 13,202 tons sunk for her last patrol.

For her first seven patrols, HERRING sank nine ships, totaling 45,200 tons, and damaged two, totaling an additional 8,400 tons. Her first four patrols were in the Atlantic, the first three off the coast of Spain, and the fourth near Iceland. The first netted an Axis freighter, while on the second HERRING saw no enemy ships. Her third patrol saw her sink Nazi U-163 and her fourth was again unproductive of enemy targets. Her fifth patrol was the passage from the United Kingdom, where she had been based for her Atlantic patrols, to New London, Conn., thence to Pearl Harbor. She patrolled the East China Sea on her sixth war run, and sank two large transports, a freighter, and a small escort type vessel. HERRING's seventh patrol was in the area just south of the Japanese home islands; here she damaged a destroyer type vessel.



## Submarines . . . of Today

### Pakistani Submarines

#### France OKs Sub Talks With Pakistan

Islamabad Wants U.S. Harpoon Missiles To Arm Subs

By Pierre Tran, *Daily Press*, 5 Jun 06

France has cleared Armaris to offer three patrol-submarines to Pakistan, lifting a bureaucratic barrier to the naval export company's efforts to sell the planned Marlin SSK boat, a French defense executive said.

But there is another snag on the horizon: Pakistan wants its new subs to come with the Boeing Harpoon antiship missile, not the Exocet SM39 from European missile maker MBDA, the executive said.

Acquiring the Harpoons won't be the problem. White House officials notified Congress on May 31 that Boeing intends to sell 130 of the missiles, including 30 submarine-launched versions and related equipment, to Pakistan for \$370 million.

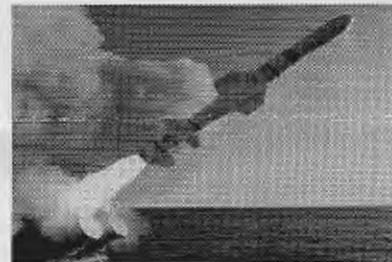
But offering the U.S. missile over the European one could draw opposition from the French government and other local firms.

Armaris is vying to supply Pakistan with three single-hulled, diesel-electric submarines equipped with air-independent propulsion, a deal likely to be worth \$1 billion to \$1.2 billion. Pakistani officials have said they also would consider the Class 214 submarine from Germany's Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft (HDW) or a Chinese sub. Italian and Russian bids also are expected.

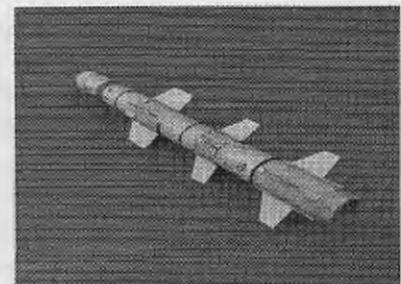
"It will be a very, very tough competition," the French executive said.

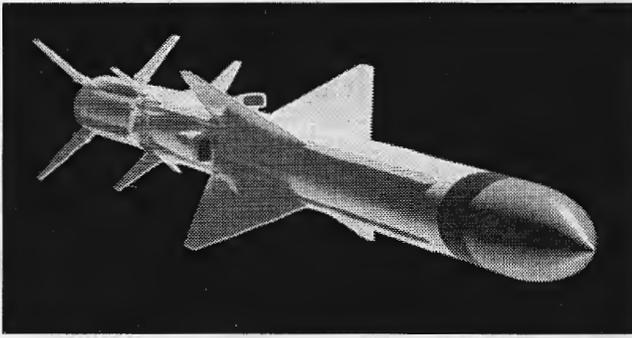
India in October purchased six Scorpene boats from Armaris, and construction of the first boat began April 28 with the cutting of the first hull plate in Cherbourg, France, which will be sent to India, where Mazagon Docks will build and outfit the six boats under Armaris' supervision as prime contractor.

A victory in Pakistan would likely mean a launch customer for the Marlin, which will be an upgrade to state-owned shipbuilder DCN's 10-year-old Scorpene submarine technology, and a new entry to compete in a crowded market.

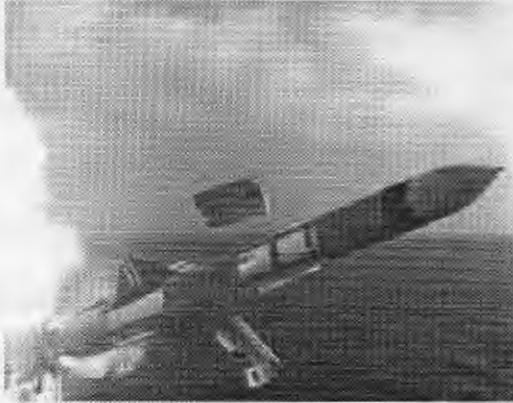


Surface launched version of the Harpoon missile





French Exocet missile, not chosen by Pakistan



Just getting this far has been a protracted process for Armaris, a marketing joint venture between DCN and Thales.

Before a French arms maker can offer weapons to a foreign customer, the company must receive the approval of the high-level Commission Interministérielle d'Etude et d'Exportation de Matériel de Guerre (CIEEMG). If buyer and seller then come to an agreement, the sale also must be authorized by the CIEEMG.

In January, the CIEEMG withheld its approval, reportedly so as not to upset Pakistan's regional rival India. Nevertheless, Armaris officials made an informal pitch to a Pakistani delegation several weeks later.

In February, Indian officials signed contracts to buy six Exocet-armed Scorpene subs and 43 Airbus airliners worth \$2.5 billion at list prices.

On May 10, Armaris received a formal invitation from Pakistan to bid on the three subs, and subsequently received the CIEEMG's approval to do so, the defense executive said. A Pakistan official confirmed that authorization had been granted for the sale.

"It's good news," he said.

Officials from the French Defense Ministry and the Délégation Générale pour l'Armement procurement office were not immediately available for comment

### Obstacles

Coming up with a deal that satisfies all concerned will be challenging.

Among the difficult parts is "how to make an offer that does not upset India," the executive said. Among other considerations, New Delhi, which plans to buy more than 100 jet fighters, is currently deciding between France's Dassault Rafale and other foreign aircraft, including the F-16 built by Lockheed Martin, the F/A-18E/F by Boeing, the JAS 39 Gripen by Sweden's Saab and the MiG-29M, offered by Russia's Irkut.

Another potential stumbling block is Islamabad's request for technology transfer as part of the sub deal, which raises the spectre of Pakistani defense firms soon competing against French ones.

Yet another sticky wicket is Pakistan's interest in the Harpoon missile.

Islamabad wants the Harpoon because it offers longer range, more accuracy, and potentially fewer export approval delays than the Exocet, the Pakistani official said.

### Agosta 90B PNS Khalid

#### Pakistan Navy's Khalid Class Agosta 90B Submarine

Displacement, tons: 1,510 surfaced, 1,760 submerged (1,960 with MESMA)  
 Dimensions, ft (m): 221.7×22.3×17.7 (67.6×6.8×5.4)  
 Main machinery: Hybrid diesel-electric/MESMAAIP  
 Speed, knots: 12 surfaced, 20 submerged  
 Range, miles: 8,500 at 9kt snorting; 350 at 3.5kt submerged, quadrupled at 4kt with MESMA  
 Complement: 36 (7 officers)  
 Diving depth, ft (m): 1,050 (320)  
 Endurance: 68 days  
 Weapons: 4 SSMs and 16 torpedoes; four 21in (533mm) tubes; mines in lieu of torpedoes



But French industry has been given to understand its government's export committee will never authorize the Marlin sale if it means putting a U.S. weapon on a French platform, the executive said.

A pick of the Harpoon would pose the question: Who would pay for the weapon's integration, said Robbin Laird, an analyst with ICSA, a consulting firm based here and in Washington. It was unlikely Pakistan had the money to pay for the work and France would balk at paying to integrate an American weapon on a French submarine, he said. "We wouldn't," he added.

Even if Pakistan were to pay for the integration, France would ask whether it was in DCN's interest to do it, he said. An alternative would be a buy of a German boat, he said. But the terms would have to be right for German industry, which is unlikely to sell at a loss.

As for whether the Harpoon was a better weapon, much depended on the Pakistan Navy's mission requirement, Laird said.

Pakistan already operates French subs, thanks to a 1994 deal to buy and build three Agosta 90B Khalid boats. The first was built by DCN at its Cherbourg yard, the second was assembled in Karachi Naval Dockyard, and the third boat is being fitted with the Mesma air-independent propulsion system, also in Pakistan.

These subs were sold with Exocets. They are capable of firing the Harpoon, but this has not been tested, the French executive said.

"They are fitted for, but no tests have been done," he said.

The schedule for the new sub program is tight. Formal offers are due in July, and Pakistan wants to pick a winner by the end of the year.

But the French executive said that preparing the offer could take six months, thanks to Pakistan's unusually detailed specifications - for example, the number of propeller blades.

"That's the first time I have seen that," the executive said.

"The Indian Ocean is an ocean we're very interested in and we want to continue engaging with all the countries in the region, including Pakistan," said Rear Adm. Joseph Walsh, the director of the U.S. Navy's Submarine Warfare Division. "It's in our interest that our friends and allies have robust submarine and stronger naval capabilities in general."

Indian defense ministry officials said they would watch the development carefully and cautiously.

One Indian analyst said France's decision to allow Armaris to pitch its submarine to Pakistan seemed baffling, because it would intensify the future debates when India considers buying a French weapon.

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## Continuing History Of Safe And Effective Nuclear Propulsion Vital, Official Says

By Geoff Fein, DEFENSE DAILY 9 JUN 06



While the effort to build safe and effective nuclear propulsion plants for ships has not changed since the days of Adm. Hyman Rickover, the Navy's nuclear propulsion program doesn't rest on its laurels, according to the program's top official.

"If you look at the record, the result is 5,700 reactor years of safe operation, 135 million miles steamed and 60 years of dealing with this business. So the fundamental issue of safety has not changed. The way we achieve that hasn't changed from the time we built the Nautilus (SSN-571) all the way up to the Virginia-class (submarines) and CVN-21," Adm. Kirkland Donald, director of Navy nuclear propulsion, told Defense Daily in a June 2 interview.

There are a number of steps that need to be taken to ensure a safe and effective system, from developing a good design all the way through quality control, Donald said. "The fundamental really is, 'defense-in-depth,' that's what we call it," he said. It starts with getting the best design possible and good engineering, whether it is a reactor plant for an aircraft carrier or submarine, he said.

"You need simplicity, redundancy, to make sure you have fall-back capability. Because as with any machine there is always the possibility of material failures and machines and things of that sort, so you have to have redundancy built in to it," Donald said.

The second piece of defense-in-depth is quality control, he added.

“You have to build it right. We have a vendor base that builds our components, builds our equipment, and builds our submarines. Many of these vendors have been with us since the beginning. These people have been with us a long time. They know what our standards are. We enforce our standards,” Donald explained. “I have direct representatives who deal with these vendors all the time. We make sure we do enforce rigorous standards of material quality, construction quality, fabrication quality, and detail design compliance. It is critically important to know what you have in that plan.” There is also the need to make sure that there is design margin built in, he added. As the Navy learns more about how these plants operate they have to have the margin in there to make sure that personnel are effective engineers.

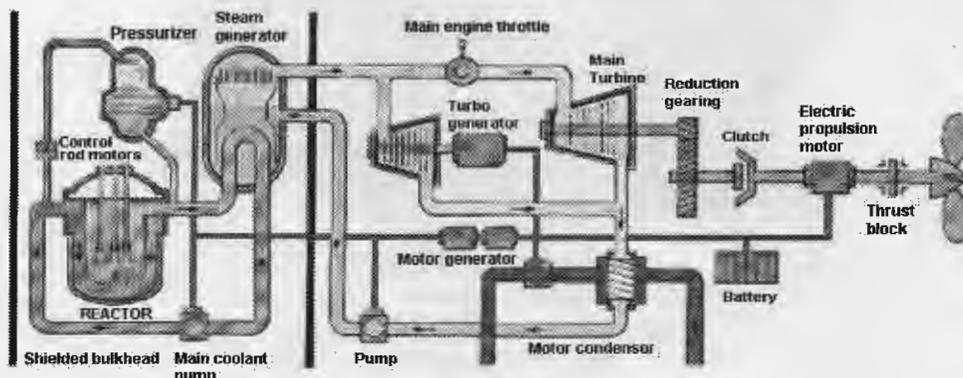


U.S.S. Sam Rayburn (SSBN-635) was decommissioned on 31 July 1989 and reclassified a moored training ship with hull classification symbol **MTS-635**. Stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on the following 28 August, she arrived at Charleston, South Carolina on 1 February 1986, and on 29 July 1989 achieved initial criticality in her new role. Her modifications included special mooring arrangements including a mechanism to absorb power generated by the main propulsion shaft. She is scheduled to operate as an MTS until 2014 while undergoing shipyard availabilities at four year intervals.

Once the plant is designed, engineered and built, it has to be operated within constraints and boundaries set by the design, Donald said. “We very carefully draft and implement operating procedures, detailed operating procedures. We demand compliance with our operating procedures. We go out and recruit really good people. We train rigorously. Every member is trained and qualified before they get out to these ships and then we have very high expectations for how they are going to operate those plants when they get out there,” he said. “Then we inspect them and hold them accountable for proper operation of those ships.”

In any one of those cases if the Navy gets some sort of an error or material failure, they have that redundancy to make sure they don’t run into something any bigger than just a minor material problem, Donald said. “We think we are building better propulsion plants now than we did in the past and I suspect when my successor is in this chair he’ll say the same thing,” Donald said. “It’s a learning organization and we take advantage of technologies that come along.” The Navy is not going to be precipitous in how it pursues technology, he added. “It is going to be proven, it’s going to be reliable, we are not going to jump on the latest bandwagon, [or] race to have the latest the first wave of technology on our ships,” Donald said. “It’s going to have to satisfy us that it is going to work.”

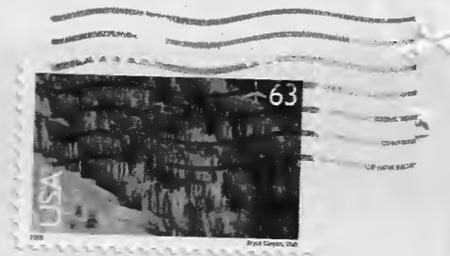
### Pressurized-water Naval Nuclear Propulsion System



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**REGULAR MEETING**  
June 17, 2006  
American Legion Post #105  
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