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<http://perch-base.org>

BASE OFFICERS

COMMANDER:

David Harnish
6509 W. Devonshire
Phoenix, AZ 85033-3350
623-846-0367
daveharnish@earthlink.net

VICE COMMANDER:

Glenn Herold
839 North Rogers
Mesa, AZ 85201-3849
480-962-6115
duke7@cox.net

SECRETARY:

Edgar Brooks
517 Eagle Crest Dr.
Prescott, AZ 86301-5424
928-778-4069
etbrooks62@aol.com

TREASURER & MEM. CHAIR:

Bob May
10015 W Royal Oak Rd. #341
Sun City, AZ 85351-6100
623-875-1212

COB:

Douglas LaRock
6400 E Thomas Rd #2001
Scottsdale, AZ 85251-6070
480-659-4134
sewerpipesailor@hotmail.com

STOREKEEPER:

Garry L. Shumann
824 North Rogers St.
Mesa, AZ 85201-3849
480-495-5639
garry1@cox.net

MEMBERSHIP/WEBMASTER:

Ramon Samson
13210 N Lake Forest Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85351-3252
623-815-9247
rsamson@bnswest.net

CHAPLAIN:

Warner H Doyle
13600 W. Roanoke Ave.
Goodyear, AZ 85338-2236
623-935-3830
d-hdoyle@worldnet.att.net

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ben Acosta
12914 W. Alvarado Rd.
Avondale, AZ 85323-7142
602-935-7752
Benvirg@juno.com

HISTORIAN:

James W Newman
3422 North 51st Place
Phoenix, AZ 85018-6120
602-840-7788
jimnewman@qwest.net

MIDWATCH EDITOR:

Chuck Emmett
7011 W. Risner Rd.
Glendale, AZ 85308
602-843-9042
chuckster41@earthlink.net

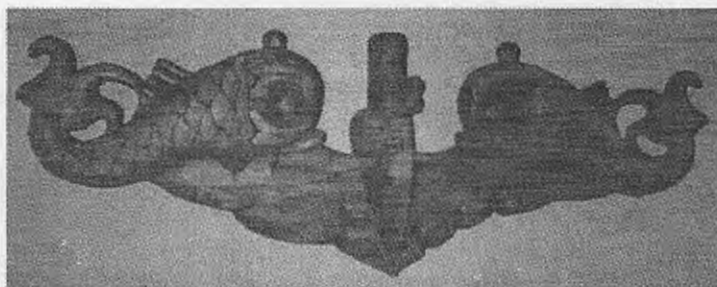


Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol

JANUARY ETERNAL PATROLS

USS Argonaut	SS 166	Jan. 10, 1943	105 men
USS Swordfish	SS 193	Jan. 12, 1945	85 men
USS S-36	SS 141	Jan. 20, 1942	none
USS S-26	SS 131	Jan. 24, 1942	46 lost

Next regular meeting is Jan. 11, 2003
American Legion Post #62
11001 N. 99th Ave. at 1200 hours
Lunch provided at \$3 a head



Commendation

Shipmate Ed Brooks

Shipmate Brooks is selected the 2002 Arizona SubVets "Sailor of the Year" for his distinguished service above and beyond the call of duty. He has diligently and consistently used his craftsmanship skills and talents to create submarine-theme wood art works. Proceeds from the sale of these pieces have benefited Perch Base, his shipmates and submarine veterans past and future in support of the United States Submarine Veterans, scholarship fund.

He has throughout this year produced hand carved dolphins for various raffles or for personnel who made a donation to the USSVI Scholarship program in their name or in the name of Perch Base. Each of these carvings represents 40 to 60 hours of love to produce.

These personal efforts in support of the United States Submarine Veterans Scholarship Program fund raising have been recognized by many as a valued contribution, "above and beyond his call to duty."

Shipmate Brooks has not sought, nor desired, any recognition for what he calls a "LABOR OF LOVE". He has, through his acts and deeds, been a guiding example for all submarine veterans and is an example of our motto "Pride Runs Deep".

Shipmate Brooks has devoted significant personal time, funds and energy to the support of Perch Base and its members. His strength and support has provided momentum and force to whatever effort is undertaken for the benefit of the brotherhood of submarine veterans and Perch Base.

Shipmate Ed Brooks; through his dedication and commitment to the mission of the USSV Scholarship program and Arizona SubVets - Perch Base has earned him the right and privilege associated with being Perch Base's 2002 "Sailor of the Year".

Signed this 14th day of December of the year Two Thousand and Two

*David Harnish
Base Commander,
Arizona Submarine Veterans – Perch Base*

Sailing Orders



**Next regular meeting is Jan. 11, 2003
American Legion Post #62
11001 N. 99th Ave. at 1200 hours
Lunch provided at \$3 a head**

**What: U.S. Submarines Veterans Inc. - Convention
Where: Reno, Nevada
When: August 31 through Sept. 7, 2003**

Mark it on your calendar! Reno is close and it would be great to have a BIG Perch Base turnout.



Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation (USSV CF) News

The USSVI Charitable Foundation is where individuals and groups can donate tax deductible monies for submarine veteran related charitable causes. The Foundation has set new goals to make a greater impact on the submarine veteran communities. Remember, the Foundation intends to bring in more money and manage the funds more efficiently.

In supporting the USSVI's purpose, the Foundation will provide funds for scholarship endowment, submarine libraries, submarine memorials, meals for needy submarine sailors and their families and other needs identified. The Foundation is a conduit for us, the submarine veteran community, to routinely make tax deductible contributions to preserve the memory and benefit those that served and are serving in the U.S. Submarine Service.

Children of our own members have benefited from the Foundation's Scholarship Fund and many more will in the future. Each dollar given to the Foundation is like a seed when others match the contribution; the funds grow and allow good things to be accomplished.

Those interested should write their check to the USSV CF and send it to:

*Treasurer USSV CF
John A. Andersen
c/o Andersen, Horie & Co
702 South Primrose Ave.
Monrovia, CA 91016*

Your Foundation needs your committed support. Send your check today and then each year, celebrate the anniversary of earning your dolphins or other event by sending a tax deductible check to the USSV Charitable Foundation. Give until it feels good!

From the Wardroom

Here we are Shipmates, at the start of a new year. This year should offer some unique challenges to deal with. The first is to establish our goals for the year.

The COB is working on setting the date and place for our annual picnic and we need to decide on the date and location for a meeting in Northern Arizona as well as whether we would like to hold a meeting in Southern Arizona also. Reservations are already made for the 2003 annual Christmas/Hanukah party at Luke Air Force Base Enlisted Club on Dec. 13.

Your help on these and any other projects that you feel we should be pursuing is vital to our getting these goals established. If you have any ideas that you feel would help to improve Perch Base and to get our name out in front of the community please let the officers hear from you. This can be done with a phone call or email; just check the cover of the newsletter for that information.

Another area that your help is being solicited in is that of getting people to step up and take on the leadership roles of the base. We are looking for nominees for all the base officer positions and have some key ones that need to be filled. Vice Commander Glen Herold is working on putting together a slate of Officers to present to the base membership and is requesting anyone that has some suggestions for these positions to contact him or any of the officers so that we can wrap up this process and publish the ballot in the February MIDWATCH.

We will have the election and installation of Officers at our March Meeting. Just as a matter of information, I will not seek reelection as the Base Commander so be thinking of a replacement. The reason for this decision is not of abandoning the base but, as many of you know, I have also taken on the job of District 8 Commander for the USSVI and have been asked by several to consider running for a National Office in our organization.

After much arm twisting, I am going to seek election to a national office and this precludes Base office. I will, however, continue to assist in the base as time permits. Having served as District 8 Commander and Base Commander this last year has taught me that we should not ask anyone to take on more than one position at a time. If you are interested in hearing which office that I am going to run for come to our next meeting and I will disclose at that time my political ambitions.

This past month has been one that will go down in memory as one to be remembered not only for a great Christmas/Hanukah party but also for one that saw several members of Perch Base travel to San Diego California to

attend the reenlistment of a fellow member, Brent Nelson who is currently serving on the USS Salt Lake City (SSN-716.)

The ceremony was held at the Cabrillo National Monument on Point Loma. After the ceremony we were treated to a tour of the Salt Lake City and the Sub Base. This was my first visit back to the base since retiring from there in 1978 and many things have changed. A monument has been established honoring the SubVets WWII as well as all the boats on eternal patrol that is very well done. I was not aware of this and during my stay at the base made an additional trip to visit this memorial. For those of you that remember Point Loma as I did will be amazed to see what it has become.

Remember to get your reenlistment and dues into our Membership Chairman Ramon Samson and let's have Perch Base lead the way with a one hundred percent reenlistment of our base members. Looking forward to a great year and seeing all at the meetings.

Fraternally,

Dave Harnish, Perch Base Commander

It Was a Shining Time . . .

It Was a Shining Time
by Bob 'Dex' Armstrong

I can't imagine going to sea and never getting to bounce around in 'surface turbulence' — just going out, going deep and staying there. Must get boring.

Loved it when the old girl got to kick up her heels in heavy weather . . . loved the roll and pitch of a round bottom smokeboat . . . loved the creak and groan as she wallowed around in the swells. Loved the cussing of the lads who rode her as they tried to make their way fore and aft, getting slammed in all directions. Loved riding heavy seas. It made you feel great to be a sailor.

I think I would have loved riding cans except for the horseshit regulation of the surface craft Navy — that bosun pipe, uniform of the day and clean white hat crap.

Don't understand what nukes see in that coal mine life of just going down for a couple of months of cracker box living . . . just out and down and then up and in again. How can you call that 'going to sea'? That 's gerbil cage life . . . no feeling a rolling deck . . . no salt spray in the face . . . no watching your plate do the North Atlantic waltz across the messtable . . . no shit falling out of the overhead . . . no sound of tons of water sloshing through the superstructure and no lying in your rack being rocked to sleep.

Wouldn't like riding an ocean-going giant elevator.

They say you don't miss what you never had which is one of the reasons I don't miss sex with Princess Diana. But riding a saltwater subway isn't my idea of a good thing. No damn diesel smoke . . . Jeezus, no damn any kind of smoke! What kind of submarine duty is it without looking aft and seeing that smoke?

No lookout duty . . . no laughing when you take one up the fairwater and over the bridge with the better part of a gallon of water running down the neck of your foul weather jacket and soaking your skivvies. No foul weather gear spread over Fairbanks covers to dry. No sea birds . . . oh, you gotta have sea birds. Watching soaring seabirds was the extra bonus God gave young men who chose a life at sea.



No porpoise jumping in your bow wave . . . no watching bow bouyancy going over one and under one . . . no ships passing in the night . . . no late night signal light exchange of lighthearted bullshit . . . no high line transfers. What kind of life is it without all of that?

I think I know why the Navy invented the boomer pin. They wanted to compensate sailors for all of the good stuff they stole from the poor bastards.

"Here's a trinket for all the really good stuff you don't know you're missing."

They never sent me my Princess Diana pin.

I couldn't do it . . . I couldn't crawl into an iron monster and spend a couple of months watching lights, computer screens and my toenails grow.

Riding boats today must be like being a kid raised in a safe deposit box. What would it be like to be riding a boat that never came in with patches of missing paint . . . decking gone . . . line locker lids left somewhere on the ocean floor . . . dished in limber holes and no stern light? No wild stories to tell over a couple of cold ones . . . no "Jeezus, you should have been out there with us" lies.

Gringo said it best . . .
"It was a shining time."

It was.

Eternal Patrol January 12, 1945

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

U.S.S. Swordfish (SS-193)



SWORDFISH, under Cmdr. K.E. Montross, left Pearl Harbor on December 22, 1944, to carry on her thirteenth patrol in the vicinity of Nansei Shoto. She topped off with fuel at Midway on December 26th and left that day for her area. In addition to her regular patrol, SWORDFISH was to conduct photographic reconnaissance of Okinawa, for preparation of the Okinawa Campaign.

On January 2nd, SWORDFISH was ordered to delay carrying out her assigned tasks in order to keep her clear of the Nansei Shoto area until completion of carrier based air strikes which were scheduled. She was directed to patrol the general vicinity until further orders were received. In the last communication received from SWORDFISH, she acknowledged receipt of these orders on January 3rd.

On January 9, 1945, SWORDFISH was directed to proceed to the vicinity of Okinawa to carry out her special mission. It was estimated that the task would not take more than seven days after arrival on station, which she should have reached on January 11th. Upon completion of her mission, SWORDFISH was to proceed to Saipan, or to Midway if she was unable to transmit by radio. Since neither place had seen her by 15 February, and repeated attempts to raise her by radio had failed, she was reported as presumed lost on that date.

In the report of her loss, mention was made that KETE, which at the time was patrolling the vicinity of Okinawa, reported that on the morning of January 12th she contacted a submarine by radar. It was believed that contact was with SWORDFISH. Four hours later KETE heard heavy depth charging from this area, and it was believed

that this attack might have been the cause of SWORDFISH's loss.

Japanese information on antisubmarine attacks does not mention the attack heard by KETE on January 12, and records no attacks in which SWORDFISH is likely to have been the victim. However, it is now known that there were many mines planted around Okinawa, since the Japanese were expecting an Allied invasion of that Island. The majority of the mines were planted close in. It is considered about equally likely that SWORDFISH was sunk by depth charge attack before she reached Okinawa for her special mission or that she was lost to a mine at that place.

SWORDFISH, in the twelve patrols before her fatal thirteenth, sank twenty-one ships, amounting to 113,100 tons, and damaged an additional eight, totaling 45,800 tons. Her first patrol began the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and was conducted west of the Philippines. SWORDFISH sank four freighters, varying from 3,900 tons to 9,400 tons, and damaged a fifth. At the time, this was the most successful patrol in the war. She conducted the second patrol in the lesser Philippine group and among the small islands between Celebes and New Guinea. Here she sank three medium freighters and a tanker. She also evacuated President Quezon, his family, Vice President Osmena, Chief Justice Santos, and three officers in the Philippine Army from Corregidor and took them to Panay, where they boarded a motor tender. SWORDFISH returned to Manila Bay and evacuated eleven more Philippine officials. SWORDFISH's primary mission on her third patrol was to deliver 40 tons of supplies to the beleaguered Corregidor. However, on April 10, 1942 ComSubAF told SWORDFISH to neglect her special mission and patrol offensively. SWORDFISH made no attacks on this patrol, but did perform reconnaissance of several islands.

The South China Sea area was the scene of this ship's fourth patrol, and she sank a freighter and a tanker, while she damaged two freighters. She returned to the South China Sea for her fifth patrol, but did no damage to the enemy. SWORDFISH went to the area west of Bougainville for her sixth patrol, and sank a medium freighter and damaged a second freighter. She went again to the Solomons for her seventh patrol and sank a freighter. On her eighth patrol SWORDFISH covered the Palau-Truk-Rabaul areas during August and September 1943. Here she sank a freighter and a transport, while damaging a freighter-transport. Her ninth patrol was cut short by material defects. On her tenth patrol, in the same area as her ninth, she sank a freighter-transport, and two medium freighters.

This ship covered the Marianas on her eleventh patrol; she damaged two freighters. On her twelfth patrol, conducted in the Bonins, she sank a freighter and two small trawlers,

while she damaged SWORDFISH sank the Japanese destroyer MATSUKAZE in a night submerged attack as the enemy ship was bearing down for an attack. SWORDFISH was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for the period of her first, second and fourth patrols

Diesel Subs 'Don't Suit The Needs' Of U.S., Says Sub Forces Commander

InsideDefense.com | November 19, 2002 | Jason Ma

The naval submarine forces commander said today that he does not want diesel subs in the U.S. fleet, because nuclear subs provide more endurance and stealth. The comments come as the United States and U.S. industry begin helping Taiwan acquire diesel subs, raising speculation the Navy may acquire some of the subs too.

When asked at a breakfast briefing if there was a place for diesel submarines in the Navy, Vice Adm. John Grossenbacher, naval submarine forces commander, said he did not think so.

I don't want diesel submarines, because I think — as capable as they are, and they are very capable — they don't suit the needs of the United States, he told a group of defense reporters. I don't want to fight undersea adversaries off the East Coast and West Coast of the United States. That's what's going to happen if you have diesel submarines.

As part of the U.S. effort to help Taiwan buy up to eight diesel electric subs, Naval Sea Systems Command plans to hold an industry briefing next month. Northrop Grumman and General Dynamics are both interested in securing work from the program, but it is unclear whether the Navy will initiate a formal competition for such work. The scope of the potential work for U.S. industry needs to be clarified, an industry source told Inside the Navy two weeks ago.

The U.S. submarine community traditionally has resisted efforts to include diesel subs in the fleet or to have them built in the United States. In an apparent attempt to quiet such opposition, Sens. Trent Lott (R-MS) and Thad Cochran (R-MS) wrote a letter Oct. 4 to the Navy's program executive officer for submarines, stating that fabrication of the diesel subs at U.S. shipyards is consistent with Navy policy and would enhance the stability of the U.S. shipbuilding industry, according to The Washington Times. Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, MS, once built diesel submarines.

Grossenbacher rejected claims that U.S. submariners feel threatened by diesel subs, and, thus, are opposed to them.

My own personal opinion is that's nonsense, he said. We're doing everything we can to work with allies and friends that have diesel submarines, because diesel submarines have proliferated around the world and continue to do so. And modern diesel submarines are enormously capable. They're good little submarines. But you're talking about an apples-and-oranges comparison.

In a one-on-one fight, I'll take the nuclear submarine everyday, Grossenbacher said.

Nuclear submarines are tactically superior in all ways to diesel subs, because they are quieter, more powerful and faster, he said. Even if an air-independent propulsion system were developed that would allow diesel subs to stay underwater longer, they would not have the same power density, endurance or agility as a nuclear sub, he added.

The modern nuclear submarine is at least as quiet as or quieter than [its] diesel adversaries, and the nuclear propulsion gives them a much greater advantage, Grossenbacher said. And I would argue that if other countries in the world had the technology or were able to make the investment, they'd do the same thing. And France and Great Britain have.

— Jason Ma



Sub Commander Out After Tanker Collision

By JACK DORSEY, The Virginian-Pilot
© December 3, 2002

The commanding officer of the Norfolk-based attack submarine Oklahoma City has been relieved of command after his ship's collision Nov. 13 with a Norwegian tanker in the Mediterranean Sea. One other officer and two enlisted crew members also were disciplined for alleged dereliction of duty, according to a Navy statement, released Monday by the 6th Fleet in the Med.

Cmdr. Richard Voter, the submarine's captain, was relieved Saturday in La Maddalena, Sardinia, by Rear

Adm. Kirkland Donald, commander of Submarine Group Eight.

Donald took the action after reviewing the investigation, saying he lost confidence in Voter's ability to command.

Voter and the three others were disciplined in a non-judicial punishment proceeding. Each received punishment ranging from punitive letters of reprimand to reduction in rank, the Navy said in a statement. The officers were relieved of their duties and ordered to return to their parent squadron, Submarine Squadron Eight, in Norfolk. The enlisted crew members will remain aboard the submarine.



U.S. Oklahoma City (SSN-723) in an Emergency Surface

Except for Voter, none of the others was identified.

Capt. Howard Reese, commander, Submarine Squadron 22, assumed command of Oklahoma City. Reese will turn command over to Cmdr. Ronald LaSalvia, deputy commander, Submarine Squadron Eight later this week, the Navy said.

The Oklahoma City remains at La Maddalena, undergoing repairs at the port's Naval Support Activity. The submarine sustained damage to its periscope and sail area. The submarine's nuclear propulsion system was not affected, and there were no injuries reported in the accident, the Navy said.

When repairs to the submarine are completed, the ship will undergo a re-certification procedure to ensure that it is ready to resume operations. It began a scheduled six-month deployment with the George Washington Battle Group in June.

The ship the submarine is suspected of striking has been identified as the 800-foot-long liquid natural gas tanker Norman Lady. At the time, the ship was empty of its cargo, sailing to Trinidad. Earlier reports indicated the Norman

Lady did not know immediately it had been struck by the submarine and sailed away despite repeated radio calls from the submarine.

Officials with Leif Hoegh & Co. shipping company in Oslo, Norway, said divers discovered a series of gashes on the tanker about 32 feet below the waterline, on the ship's right side.



After Battery Rats

The Big Picture was Never in Focus
by Bob 'Dex' Armstrong

Me 'n Stuke worked for Arliegh Burke. We had no gahdam idea what middle management between the skipper and "31 knot" Burke looked like or did for a living . . . and frankly, didn't give a damn. Admiral Burke was a bluejackets' leader. He was a meat eater . . . absolute King of the Jungle. He was an action man in a world of 'All talk, no do'.

Burke was the kind of individual who would hunt Bengal Tigers with a .22 and drag the dead ones home. No shark would ever eat Arliegh Burke out of reciprocal professional courtesy. Every mother in America could have no finer wish for a son, than wishing he would grow up to be just like Admiral Burke. The heart of a lion packaged in a kind gentleman who understood leadership from 'A' to 'Z'.

As far as we were concerned, the squadron staff on Orion were shore duty personnel . . . 9 to 5 useless overhead. Outside of constantly losing our pay records and hauling us up to sick bay and poking hypodermic needles in our butts, they never seemed to be doing a whole helluva lot that contributed to the 'Big Picture'.

Officers talked a lot about 'Big Picture' stuff . . . I think they dabbled in it on a kind of 'Nibble around the edges'

basis. If there actually was a big picture, it never reached Hogan's Alley on Requin, that's for damn sure.

Speaking of big pictures, in 1959 if some clown had come down Pier 22 with a forty-foot high photograph of the squadron commander on a sixty-foot pole, every E-3 topside would have said, "Who 'n the hell is that?"

If he turned up on 'What's my Line' and we could have won two weeks at The Waldorf-Astoria with the Playmate of the Month, we would have still been stumped.

We knew he existed because several times a day some pea brain on Mother Onion blew a damn bos'un's pipe and announced to a world that could have cared less, "Subron Six arriving..."

But as far as we were concerned, he lived in the same nether world with the Tooth Fairy, Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny, and other folks we had never met or seen.

We saw the Atlantic Sub Force Commander, Vice Admiral Elton W. Grenfell... He was a good egg. I don't have any idea what he did for a living other than sit around in a room jam-packed with four-stripers and think up weird stuff for submarines to do.

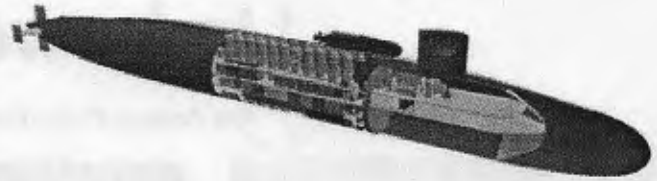
One time he came aboard. We knew he was a big cheese because the COB underwent a fast pop religious conversion and had us take down all the nekkit lady pictures, including the really great one of Janet Pilgrim in a lace nightie taped to inside of the after battery head stall door. An admiral wearing three stars could have had a mammoth attack of the green-apple quick-step and still there was no way in hell he would have gone in there.

Didn't matter, the COB always won. We spent half the damn night turning to converting our clubhouse for seagoing idiots into the best imitation of a Sunday school we could come up with . . . and for the rest of my enlistment, whenever I was parked on the aft head in the after battery, I stared at the little pieces of tape that outlined where Janet and those 44 DDs peeked through that flimsy white nightie had been, and cussed Sublant.

The Admiral came. He had porked up a little since he tied knots in Tojo's tail and he had a sizeable pack of staff toadies nipping at his heels. They formed us up in dress canvas, including mess cooks. The standard drill, two ranks of stationary seagull crap targets aft of the sail. The Admiral gave us the mandatory 'You men are doing one helluva job for The U.S. Navy' speech . . . the one where the duty messcook always has that 'What in the hell is he

(continued on "RAT," page 13)

Trident Subs to Become SSGNs



NORFOLK, Va. (AP) - Transformation is better than termination, the Navy figures.

The USS Florida and three other nuclear subs faced decommissioning as a result of the START II arms reduction treaty and a subsequent Navy review, but about a year ago, the Defense Department decided to convert the vessels and use them in different ways.

The Florida will be converted to carry conventional weapons and used as a stealthy platform to deploy SEALs. The sub, its nuclear weapons already removed, arrived Thursday at its new homeport of Norfolk Naval Station from its former base in Bangor, Wash.

In January, two Tomahawk missiles - minus their warheads - will be fired from one of the Florida's missile tubes in a test that will be the first launch of cruise missiles from an Ohio-class submarine. The date of the test off the coast of Florida was not released.

During the third week of January, the hulking, black 560-foot sub will go to the Bahamas and take part in a weeklong experiment called Giant Shadow. In the simulation, SEALs, unmanned air and underwater vehicles and various sensors will work together to try to confirm reports that terrorists are building a chemical weapons plant, the SEALs will look for the plant and the submarine will try to destroy it.

The intent is to learn what else the converted subs may be capable of doing to fill in gaps in joint war fighting, said Capt. William Toti, who will run Giant Shadow.

The sub will head to the Norfolk Naval Shipyard next August to begin 32 months of conversion and refueling. It is expected to be delivered to the Navy in 2007 after testing.

The conversion is part of a continuing effort to use technology to transform the Navy as its roles change, said Toti, assistant chief of staff for requirements for the commander of the Navy's submarine forces.

(Continued on "TRIDENTS," page 12)



Underway Shots

The Annual Perch Base Christmas Party



Christmas Party Huge Success

Perch Base's first Christmas Dinner as a sit-down got underway at 1800 hours with a no host cocktail hour. As each guest entered the Luke AF Base NCO club they were greeted by three lovely ladies, Nancy Nelson, Judy Wannamaker and Kay Hamish who handed each arrival an envelope with name tags, dinner choice and tickets for door prizes.

After the cocktail hour, Chaplin Joe Bernard offered a special blessing for dinner. Following dinner, the awards program began. First up was the recognition of the Submarine Veterans of World War Two National President Jack Richardson and his wife Joanne. All SubVets WWII

were asked to stand and they received a rousing round of applause. Then, all Commanding Officers stood and were recognized including our own Treasurer, Bob May.

In a special award, Judy Wannamaker was asked to come to the front and was presented flowers and a letter of commendation by Perch Base Commander, Dave Harnish. *(Editor: The full text of Judy's and the other letters of commendation follows immediately.)*

Two more letters of commendation — to Ramon Samson for his work on the web page and newsletter and Bob May for his many years of service to Perch Base — were also presented.

Commander Dave Harnish, assisted by Tom "Tug Boat" Tilley, presented the Sailor-of-the-Year Award. Different this year, and a surprise to the both, was the award going to two shipmates.

The winners, Ed Brooks and Glen Herold, were each presented with a plaque in the shape of the state of Arizona with a Perch Base patch affixed and properly inscribed. Interestingly, Glen knew Ed was getting his and Ed knew Glen was getting his, but neither know of their own award, a neat trick for two very deserving individuals.

The awards were followed by the presenting the door prizes. Donated by Nancy Nelson and Frank and Layne Rumbaugh, the prizes were a big hit of the evening. Capping the door prize awards was the raffle of a set of Ed Brook's hand carved dolphins, won by Nancy Nelson.

The evening concluded with the members and guests settled down for some serious dancing and story telling. It was a great evening and was enjoyed by all that came.

Everyone was so impressed with the Luke NCO club and how the sub vets were treated, that arrangements were made to hold the 2003 party there again. And, the date is set! Mark your calendars for Dec. 13, 2003.

The following Letters of Commendation were presented at the Christmas Party.

Letter of Commendation

Mrs. Judy Wannamaker is hereby commended by the members of the Arizona Subvets - Perch Base for her unending support and assistance to the organization.

Judy has been a key participant, for several years, in the planning and execution of almost all of the Perch Base social events. From the Christmas Party to the annual picnic, her efforts have been instrumental in all their success.

She moves among us with so little fanfare, and does her magic. It may not normally be noticed by all that enjoy the fruits of her skills and efforts.

Judy and Don are also credited, by many, with responsibility for the success of a previous convention of the Submarine Veterans of WWII, held here in Phoenix.

Judy is also an exceptional spouse to one of our dearest shipmates and her care for him has earned all our appreciation and respect.

It is often said that; "Behind every good man is a good woman". That is certainly true for Shipmate Don Wannamaker.

Judy Wannamaker brings to the members of the Perch Base a special type of support that is appreciated by all its members. Her efforts have allowed us to enjoy these special events without concern for things going well. They always have! It is, therefore, with great pride that I, on behalf of the members of Arizona Submarine Veterans - Perch Base, congratulate and commend Judy Wannamaker for her exemplary service to the organization.

Signed this 14th day of December in the year 2002.

David R. Harnish
Base Commander
Arizona SubVets - Perch Base

Letter of Commendation

Shipmate Ben Acosta is hereby commended by the members of the Arizona Subvets - Perch Base for his dedication and lasting support to the organization.

Shipmate Acosta who has been an active member of Perch Base for several years, became a key member of the organization while he was still on active duty with the US Navy.

He has been a vital part of the Base management as Chairman of the Public Relations Committee and coordinator for the Phoenix Veteran's Day Parade.

With respect to the Phoenix Veteran's Day Parade, Shipmate Acosta has spent an enormous amount of time and energy in organizing the Perch Base entry and participation in this major public event for the past two years. He arranged for and coordinated a joint effort involving Perch Base and Arizona Public Service, fostering an ever expanding involvement including flags for all the active submarines in the US Fleet, a classic 1942 fire truck, Naval Reserve Center personnel, loaned autos and trucks, clothing and food for the participants. As a result of this effort, Perch Base and the Submarine Veteran Community have been presented to the public in a most favorable light.

Shipmate Acosta brings to Perch Base a level of service and support that is admired and appreciated by all its members. His efforts support the mission of the organization in an exemplary manner. The results of those efforts make Perch Base a stand out in the public's view fostering our mission to call attention to submariners who have served and died to maintain our freedoms.

Shipmate Acosta's involvement, gives significant support to the organization and fosters its elevated stature and presence in the public's eye. It is, therefore, with great pride that I, in behalf of the members of Arizona Submarine Veterans - Perch Base, congratulate and commend Shipmate Shuman for his exemplary service to the organization.

Signed this 14th day of December in the year 2002.

David R. Harnish
Base Commander
Arizona SubVets - Perch Base

Letter of Commendation

Shipmate Bob May is hereby commended by the members of the Arizona Subvets - Perch Base for his dedication and lasting support to the organization.

Shipmate May has been an active member of Perch Base almost from its inception. He has actively participated in the Base operations as a member of the Board of Directors, various committees and other functional elements of the organization.

His stalwart service as Perch Base Treasurer has provided the members with accurate accountability for the Base's finances and a confident assurance that the Base's monies are being handled and accounted for in the highest professional manner. His attention to detail in keeping abreast of the Base's finances, filing reports with the national organization, settling the Base's obligations as they occur and keeping the Base Officers and its members current and informed has been exceptional.

Shipmate May's active involvement with the Base Board of Directors has contributed significantly by bringing a sound business attitude and common sense to all its endeavors. His analytical approach to the process of helping steer the organization's operations has been extremely valuable to its members.

Without members like shipmate May, no organization can prosper or succeed. It is, therefore, with great pride that I, in behalf of the members of Arizona Submarine Veterans - Perch Base, congratulate and commend Shipmate May for his years of exemplary service to the organization.

Signed this 14th day of December in the year 2002.

David R. Harnish
Base Commander
Arizona SubVets - Perch Base

Letter of Commendation

Shipmate Ramon Samson is hereby commended by the members of the Arizona Subvets - Perch Base for his dedication and lasting support to the organization.

Shipmate Samson who has been an active member of Perch Base for a number of years, has always been front and center when help is needed. He has served as Membership Committee Chairman, Editor of the Base newsletter, Webmaster for the Base Web Page and numerous other positions. He is also an active and contributing member of the Board of Directors.

Shipmate Samson is a stealthy member of the Perch Base. Without fanfare, he setup and initiated the Base Web Page which he continues to maintain. The amount of work and expertise involved in that effort is easily recognized by visiting the Web Site and observing its superlative construction and content.

He took over and single handedly edited and published the Base Newsletter, producing a monthly publication that has been exceptional in quality and content. Even during a period when his personal work load would have fully burdened any other man.

During his tenure as Membership Committee Chairman, Shipmate Samson has steered the Base toward increasing membership and unprecedented membership renewal. His innovation with annual renewal notices has set a standard that is being adopted by the Submarine Veterans organization nationwide.

Shipmate Samson's "can do" attitude is an inspiration to all his shipmates in Perch Base.

Shipmate Samson, makes the organization run smoother and gives it the best possible image to outside interests. It is, therefore, with great pride that I, in behalf of the members of Arizona Submarine Veterans - Perch Base, congratulate and commend Shipmate Samson for his years of exemplary service to the organization.

Signed this 14th day of December in the year 2002.

David R. Harnish
Base Commander
Arizona SubVets - Perch Base

Letter of Commendation

Shipmate Gary Shumann is hereby commended by the members of the Arizona Subvets - Perch Base for his dedication and lasting support to the organization.

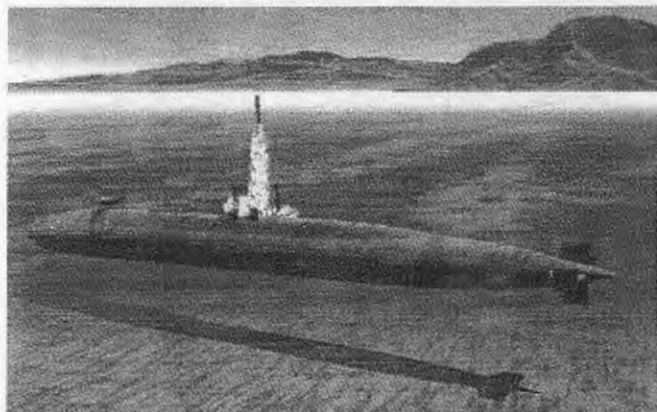
Shipmate Shumann who has been an active Associate member of Perch Base for the past year, immediately pitched in when help was needed to manage the Ship's Store.

In his capacity as Base Storekeeper, he has helped finance Base operations by stocking and selling merchandise and memorabilia to members and others. His attention to maintaining the inventory, transfer of receipts to the Base Treasurer and handling of the Ship's Store merchandise has been a true asset to the Base operations. Even though Shipmate Shumann is not a Submarine Veteran, his dedication and support as an Associate Member has been exceptional. All of the members of Perch Base are proud to call him "Shipmate".

Shipmate Shuman's involvement, makes the organization run smoother and more efficiently. It is, therefore, with great pride that I, in behalf of the members of Arizona Submarine Veterans - Perch Base, congratulate and commend Shipmate Shuman for his exemplary service to the organization.

Signed this 14th day of December in the year 2002.

David R. Harnish
Base Commander
Arizona SubVets - Perch Base



TRIDENTS (continued from page 9)

"Transformation isn't just about buying more stuff," Toti told reporters aboard the docked submarine. "Transformation is about using the things we already have in ways nobody dreamed of."

Conversion work began in November on the USS Ohio at

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Wash. The USS Michigan and USS Georgia are slated to begin conversion in 2004.

The cost of converting and refueling all four subs is being reviewed but is roughly \$3.8 billion, Toti said.

Critics argue that the money would be better spent developing new weapons and attack submarines. The subs, however, will have enough nuclear power to last at least 20 more years, and the Navy figured it would be cheaper to convert them than to create something new. Toti estimated it would cost about \$12 billion to build four new subs.



RATS (continued from page 9)

talking about?' look on his face.

"Yes sir gentlemen . . . wish I could fill you in on the big picture and you would understand how vital your individual contribution is."

Always big picture bullshit . . . it always came by one-ton loads. After the speech, the Admiral came down each row of bluejackets and spoke personally to each one of us. He didn't have to do that, but he did. You can't help liking an old smokeboat bastard who makes you feel like he really wants to shake your hand and say something to you.

He asked me if there was anything I would like to ask him.

"Yes sir... Is there any way you could work it so the geedunk truck would take Canadian money?"

He looked at me like I had three heads and a tail and moved on. The COB looked at me like I was a total idiot.

Here was my idea... At some time or another, every ship based in Norfolk put into Halifax. When it shoved off, the bunk locker drawers were loaded with left over Canadian money roaming around in them. Canadian money in '59 had a par value greater than U.S. money. In sizable amounts, the difference could add up. If the roach coach took Canadian money, it would substantially increase sales because it would be the only place thousands of bluejackets could dump the stuff. The navy mobile canteen folks would get a boatload of it and make out like Chinese bandits on large amount exchanges.

But if an E-3 thinks it up it's gotta be stupid. Not 'big picture'.

After we broke quarters, the COB came over shook his head and said, "Next time the admiral shows up, I'm locking you in the paint locker."

I'm not sure that at nineteen the big picture matters much. Political alliances change . . . national identities change . . . enemies come and go. You figure all that out much later in life. 'Big pictures' never remain the same . . . maybe they are not really 'big pictures' at all, just snapshots of moments in time.

At nineteen, the Russians were the bad guys. All targets were designated Ivan . . . they rode boats hauling ordinance destined to be parked in your backyard. They were vermin and you were the Orkin man. A boatload of Russian boat sailors flooded at 350' was a cause for celebration. That was that much less ordinance available

for package delivery.

Recent events make clear that somewhere between nineteen and sixty the big picture got refocused and things changed. But we were young; didn't have time for anything resembling the big picture. Beer was a buck a pitcher at Bells . . . Slim Jims were a dime and on a lonely night if you were lucky, a barmaid would take you home for a hot shower and a late breakfast.

'31 knot Burke' could shuffle around the big picture and we had complete faith in him.

If Grenfell ever showed up again, I had some other ideas to bounce off him like moving the damn dumpsters on the pier closer to the nest, robotic chipping hammers and paint scrapers, and putting a couple of gals on the boats as Backscratchers Mates.

Women on submarines. At nineteen . . . single . . . and a long way from home. Not a bad idea.



Return To:

U. S. Submarine Veterans, Perch Base
13210 N. Lake Forest Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85351-3252

<http://perch-base.org>



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Next regular meeting - January 11, 2003