



HAMPTON ROADS BASE



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01 March 2019

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 1

- Base Commander's Note

Page 2

- Secretary/Treasurer's Note

Page 3

- March Lost Boats

Page 4

- SoY Selectees Announced

Page 5

- Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS)
- American Submariner Submissions

Page 6

- March Birthdays
- Submarine Khaki Social

Page 7

- Upcoming Events
- March Historic Events

Page 8

- Humor

Page 9

- USWN Articles

Page 14

- Officers & Key Personnel

Attachments:

- February Meeting Minutes
- Storekeeper's Inventory
- Americam Submariner Articles

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Our Creed:

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

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice.

The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today."

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From the Base Commander

Shipmates,

Here we are getting ready to roll into March, with that, we all know that we



change our meeting by one week to support the FRA and their St. Paddy's Day festivities. That being said, the meeting in March is on the 9th, and at the Fleet Reserve.

Our first social turned out to be a great one, we had a total of 50 people there and there was some excellent camaraderie. We are hopeful that the Admiral will be able to make the next one.

Don't forget that Birthday Ball coming up on the 5th of April at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. If you plan on going and getting a room, you need to be calling now, I do not have any information yet on what hotels



have deals. Tickets will be around \$60.00 per person.

Keep signing up those new members as we have finally taken 2nd place in overall membership within USSVI.

R, Ted



From the Secretary/ Treasurer

Shipmates,

We had our first CSL/CSS-6 Khaki Social on 15-FEBRUARY and it went very well with everyone having a good time. There were 50 people there including 12 SubVets. Unfortunately, at the last moment the VADM had to cancel but his Chief of Staff did attend and expressed his appreciation for us putting it together. These Socials are a great way to trade information with the active duty guys and to recruit them. We will do this two or three more times this year, as long as we can find dates that are good for everyone. Come out, support the waterfront guys.



Our next big event is the 119th Submarine Birthday Ball. This year it is at the Virginia Beach Convention Center on Friday, 05-APRIL and we're looking for a good turn out from the Base. We always have a good time at this and it is well worth attending. If you haven't already signed up for it you must get in touch with Ted Vorce **ASAP**. Please, remember to bring your check book to our meeting on 09-MARCH to pay for your Birthday Ball tickets.

As a reminder for everyone, applications for the \$1000 HRB Scholarship are due to me by email (GrumpyOldSquid@gmail.com) **NO LATER THAN 15-APRIL-2019**. If you have any relative

that is applying for the scholarship award remind them to make sure they meet the submittal deadline.

Sam Stevens, the Base webmaster, continues to make improvements to the Base website making it more informative and valuable. If you haven't already registered for credentials on our website, you should. Remember, you must use the email address you registered when you became a member of USSVI to be accepted as a member of the Base website. Once you request credentials, Sam has to approve them. You should then go back to the website, login, and complete your profile. If you are having problems, contact Sam (SStvns7@gmail.com).

It is very important for you to keep me up to date on all of your contact information. Please, make sure I have all your contact phone numbers and email addresses. If you move, please, get your new snail-mail address to me as soon as you know it. Send it to me at GrumpyOldSquid@gmail.com.

There is nothing new to report on the new USSVI National website. Until the new website is up and running you should still use the existing website (<https://www.USSVI.org/home.asp>). The American Submariner magazine can be found on the USSVI National website when you want to read it.

It is time to think about the Base Picnic Meeting in July. It's going to be at the FRA again this year and a week or two before we have it, we're going to hold a field day at the FRA to clean up the patio area (and anywhere else we can reach).

That will be all from me for this month. As always, if you need something don't hesitate to email me or call me so I can help you out. I'm only as far away as your computer or the other end of your phone. Finally, don't forget about our regular monthly



meeting at FRA #60 on 09-MARCH (the second Saturday of the month, NOT the third), we want to see you there, otherwise...

EMCS(SS) Craig S. Werner, U.S.N. (Ret.)
Hampton Roads Base Secretary & Treasurer



Boats Lost in March

We remember.... We Honor

USS F-4 (Skate) (SS 23): Lost on March 25, 1915 with the loss of 21 men. She foundered 1.5 miles off of Honolulu when acid corrosion of the lead lining of the battery tank let seawater in to the battery compartment, causing loss of control. She was raised in August 1915.



USS H-1 (Seawolf) (SS-28):



Lost 26 March 1920 while being towed by USS Vestal. On March 12, Seawolf ran aground about

400 yards off of Santa Margarita Island, Baja California. Due to the ship's condition and rough sea, the CO, LCDR James Webb, ordered the ship to be abandoned and the crew to make for shore. Of the crew of 25, the CO and three other men were lost.

USS Perch (SS 176): Lost on March 3, 1942 near Java with no immediate loss of life, while on her first war patrol. She survived two severe depth chargings in less than 200 feet of water by 3 Japanese destroyers. The crew abandoned ship and scuttled her. Of the 61 officers and men taken prisoner, 55 survived the war and six died as POWs. **Late**

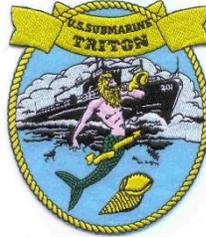
Hampton Roads Base member Turk Tuner was among the POWs



USS Grampus (SS 207): Lost on March 5, 1943 with the loss of 71 officers and men, on her 6th war patrol. She was lost in Vella Gulf, sunk after engaging two Japanese destroyers.



USS Triton (SS 201): Lost on March 15, 1943 with the loss of 74 men. She was sunk north of the Admiralty Islands during a fight with three Japanese destroyers. Triton was the first boat to engage the enemy in December 1941 off Wake Island, sinking 9 ships, 1 submarine, and a destroyer.



USS Tullibee (SS 284): Lost on March 26, 1944 with the loss of 79 officers and men, on her fourth war patrol. It is believed she was a victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. The lookout was the only survivor and he survived the war as a Japanese prisoner.



USS Kete (SS 369): Lost on March 20, 1945 with the loss of 87 officers and men at the end of her second war patrol. She was probably sunk near Okinawa by a Japanese submarine that itself was subsequently lost.



USS Trigger (SS 237): Lost on March 26, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men, on her 12th war patrol. She was lost during a combined attack by Japanese anti-submarine vessels and aircraft. Trigger ranked 7th in total tonnage sunk and tied for 8th in number of ships sunk.



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SoY Selectees Announced:

The 2018 COMSUBLANT Sailor of the Year Ceremony was held on 31 January. The ceremony was led by Submarine Force Master Chief John Perryman at the historic Pennsylvania House on Naval Station Norfolk.

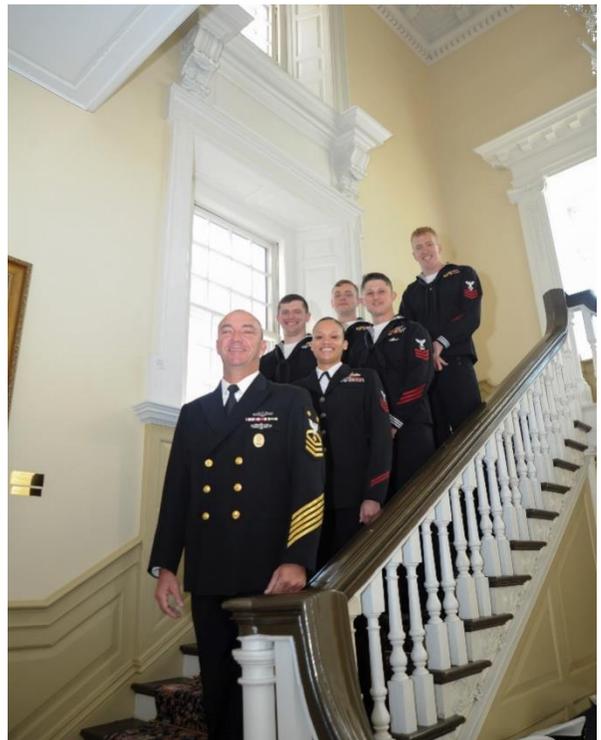
The Sailors in contention for Submarine-Atlantic (SUBLANT) Sea SOY were:

- Missile Technician 1st Class Cody Arabie, a native of Rayne, La., assigned to USS Alaska (SSBN 732) (Blue);
- Machinist's Mate (Auxiliary) 1st Class Stephen Fuhr, a native of London, Ky., assigned to USS San Juan (SSN 751); and
- Machinist's Mate (Nuclear) 1st Class Bradley Rumann, a native of Loon Lake, Wash., assigned to USS Columbus (SSN 762).

Competing for SUBLANT Shore SOY were:

- Damage Controlman 1st Class Monique Carswell, a native of Los Angeles, Calif., assigned to Naval Submarine Support Facility (NSSF) New London;
- Machinist's Mate (Nuclear) 1st Class Justin Kent, a native of Chattanooga, Tenn., assigned to Submarine Squadron Six; and
- Logistics Specialist 1st Class Samantha Mincey, assigned to Trident Refit Facility (TRF) Kings Bay.

Five of the candidates are shown below with Master Chief Perryman. Not in the photo is LS1 Mincey who was attending Submarine School.



This year, the selection board consisted of representatives from four active duty units, the Submarine League (CAPT Pete Flannery) and USSVI-HRB (Ted Vorce). They had to choose between the three sea-based and the three shore-based nominees. After deliberations, the top selectees are **DC1(SW) Monique Carswell**, based at RSG Groton and **MMA1(SS) Stephen Fuhr** of USS San Juan. They are shown below with Force Master Chief John Perryman.





FMC(SS) Perryman, MMAN1(SS)Fuhr, DC1(SW) Carswell

USSVI was represented by (center rear), Southeast District 1 Commander Dave Campbell (extreme right) the first (1972) SUBLANT and ATLANTIC FLEET Sailor of the Year, TCMC(SS) Rich Corey and seven other HRB Members some of whom are shown below.



(l-r) Gary Galles, Ted Vorce, Rich Corey National Junior Vice Commander Steve Bell, Joe Demnicki, Craig Werner, Southeast District 1 Commander Dave Campbell.

We are looking forward to the 2019 Sailor of the Year events and another group of outstanding sailors.



Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) News

On 19 February the four-man HRB crew visited three patients and families at NMC-P. The kids' ages ranged from five to 22 years.

UPCOMING VISITS (Tentatively):

- 19 March
- 23 April
- 21 May
- 18 June



AMERICAN SUBMARINER SUBMISSIONS

Recently Craig Werner submitted two articles about CSL Sailor of the Year and about our Wellness Check Program to American Submariner for possible publication. In case that they are not published, both are included as attachments.

HRB March Birthdays

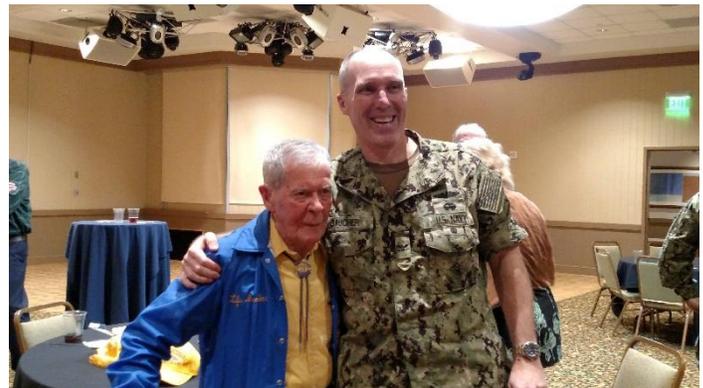
- 1: Bob Saenz
- 2: Mike Amann
- 6: Dave Coffield, Jay Stokes
- 9: Larry Hayes, Jenny Dugan
- 12: John Donaldson; Roy Vess
- 14: Dave Bridges
- 15: Dennis Olson
- 17: Pat Urello
- 19: Joe Demnicki,
- 22: Barry Porter
- 26: Bud Warren
- 27: Ron Pervere, Ed Cirucci; Jake Melton, Carl Boyd
- 30: Eric Strickland



What we went for.



Craig Thanking CAPT Gaucher for his Presentation



CAPT Gaucher & Ed Kracker

Submarine Khaki Social

Hampton Roads Base hosted the first Submarine Khaki Social in more than two years on 15 February.

VADM Richard was slated to attend but was unable to do so. However, the more than two dozen active duty attendees included SUBLANT Chief of Staff CAPT Robert Gaucher, several ship's captains and numerous other active duty personnel.

About a dozen HRB members were in attendance to regale the active duty guys with tales of daring (or not so daring) activities during days of yore.

CAPT Gaucher spoke about the focus of recent and future training efforts. War fighting skill and lethality seemed to be underlying principles. We hope to have him as a guest speaker at a base meeting soon. STAY TUNED. It should be an enlightening presentation.

Here are several pictures of the event.



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Upcoming Events

March 2019

- 09: Base Meeting
- 19: Kap(SS) 4 Kids(SS) @NMC-P

April 2019

- 05: 118th Submarine Anniversary Ball, VA Beach Convention Center
- 17: Naval Submarine League (NSL), Norfolk Room, Sewell's Point Golf Course
- 20: Base Meeting
- 23: Kap(SS) 4 Kids(SS) @NMC-P
- 29-02 May: SE Region Conference, Cape Canaveral Radisson

May 2019

- 16: WWII Submarine Memorial & Hall of Fame Ceremonies
- 18: Base Meeting
- 21: Kap(SS) 4 Kids(SS) @NMC-P
- 26: USS Scorpion Memorial
- 27: 134th Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade

June 2019

- 15: Base Meeting / Holland Club Induction
- 18: Kap(SS) 4 Kids(SS) @NMC-P
- 19: Naval Submarine League (NSL), Norfolk Room, Sewell's Point Golf Course

July 2019

- 20: Base Meeting /Picnic/ Scholarship Announcement
- 23: Kap(SS) 4 Kids(SS) @NMC-P

August 2019

- 17: Base Meeting
- 20: Kap(SS) 4 Kids(SS) @NMC-P
- 15-20: USSVI Convention - Austin, TX

September 2019

- 21: Base Meeting
- 23: USS Thomas A. Edison Reunion, Norfolk
- 24: Kap(SS) 4 Kids(SS) @NMC-P

October 2019

- 19: Base Meeting
- 22: Kap(SS) 4 Kids(SS) @NMC-P

November 2019

- 16: Base Meeting
 - 19: Kap(SS) 4 Kids(SS) @NMC-P
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March Historic Events

Mar 03 1776 - Under the command of Commodore Esek Hopkins and Marine Capt. Samuel Nicholas, the Continental Navy makes the first American amphibious landing operation at New Providence, Bahamas, and captures the fort for much needed ordnance and gunpowder.

Mar 27 1794 - President George Washington signs "An act to provide a naval armament" authorizing the construction of six frigates: United States, Constellation, Constitution, Chesapeake, Congress, and President.



USS CONSTITUTION

Mar 20 1912 - USS Skipjack (SS-24), the first US submarine with diesel engines, was running on the



HUMOR

surface of Hampton Roads when Fireman W.T. Walsh lost his footing and fell overboard. Walsh, a non-swimmer was quickly foundering. Upon seeing Walsh's plight, the Commanding Officer, LT Chester A. Nimitz, dove in to the rescue. Due to Walsh's panic and an outgoing tide, return to the Skipjack was not possible. Nimitz kept both afloat until they were picked up by a boat from the battleship North Dakota. (from 'The Admirals' by Walter T. Bornmen)

Mar 03 1942 - USS Perch (SS 176), after being depth-charged and irreparably damaged by Japanese destroyers Ushio and Sazanami, is scuttled by her crew in the Java Sea. All hands survive but are taken prisoner.

Late HRB Member Turk Turner was one of those who endured more than three years of captivity.

Mar 13 1944 -| **USS Sand Lance (SS-381)**: Sand Lance came up to periscope depth and found herself in the midst of a Japanese convoy, consisting of 5 merchantmen and 3 heavily armed warships. Sand Lance had only 6 torpedoes remaining, but she made them count. At least 2 of the ships went to the bottom, light cruiser Tatsuta and cargoman Kokuyo Maru, carrying over 1,000 enemy troops. For her success, Sand Lance underwent a 16-hour, 100 depth charge pounding from the accompanying destroyers.

Mar 08 1961- USS Patrick Henry (SSBN 599): When Patrick Henry surfaced off Holy Loch, Scotland, she had set a record for her type, cruising submerged 66 days and 22 hours.



USWN ARTICLES

USS Thresher memorial to be built at Arlington National Cemetery

Staff, WMTW 8 (Arlington, VA ABC Affiliate),
January 29

A permanent memorial to the victims of the USS Thresher disaster will be built at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Secretary of the Army has signed off on the plan, honoring the 129 lives lost in the deadliest submarine disaster in U.S. history.

The USS Thresher, based out of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, sank during deep diving tests in April 1963 about 200 miles off the New England coast.

Maine Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King sent a letter to the secretary asking for a memorial.

A memorial stands at the Albacore Museum in Portsmouth, but for years, there have been efforts to erect a monument on the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery.

The Navy responded to the Thresher disaster by revamping submarine safety and quality assurance standards during construction, a legacy that would be honored on the proposed monument.

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Senator: Chinese buildup in South China Sea like ‘preparing for World War III’

Geoff Ziezulewicz, Navy Times, January 30

WASHINGTON – China’s ongoing military buildup on islands in the South China Sea is akin to

“preparing for World War III,” the chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee declared on Tuesday.

The comment by Republican Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma came during a hearing to discuss the challenges posed by rising military powers China and Russia, a discussion that included ideas on how the people can better understand the threats to the world order that America built and has benefited from for decades.

While the U.S. military has a presence in and around the South China Sea and the larger western Pacific Ocean, Inhofe said America largely watched China lay claim to its rocks and islets before turning other reefs into fortifications, brimming with arms and stockpiled with materiel.

Beijing’s ongoing expansion into the Spratly archipelago agitates neighboring nations and continues to challenge international law, an assertiveness the U.S. Navy attempts to check through routine freedom of navigation operations, or FONOPs.

A Chinese warship nearly rammed the guided-missile destroyer Decatur last fall near contested reefs that are occupied by Beijing’s troops but also claimed by Vietnam, Taiwan and the Philippines.

“It’s like you’re preparing for World War III,” Inhofe said. “You’re talking to our allies over there and you wonder whose side they’re going to be on.”

Inhofe and other senators, as well as experts who testified before the committee, noted that the urgency of the Chinese threat against America and today’s world order may not be fully appreciated by U.S. citizens.

“I’m concerned our message is not getting across,” said Inhofe, who took over the committee this month.

The days of indisputable American military dominance in the Pacific following the defeat of



Japan in 1945 and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 has ended, he warned.

“There’s this euphoric attitude people have had since World War II that somehow we have the best of everything,” Inhofe said.

But Elbridge Colby, a former deputy assistant secretary of defense for strategy and force development and now a director at the Washington-based Center for a New American Security think tank, told lawmakers Tuesday that America also has “immense reservoirs” of national power.

A fellow hand at CNAS, Ely Ratner, added that it’s important for Senators and all other Americans to know that Washington’s rocky relationship with China is neither “an episodic downturn” nor a problem that began with President Donald Trump and his administration’s policies.

Saying that the American people “should be preparing for long-term competition with China,” Ratner also warned Beijing’s support for embattled Venezuelan strongman Nicholas Maduro should be viewed as a sign of things to come.

“I think it’s a harbinger of what a China-led order would look like...in terms of protecting and defending non-democratic regimes and impeding the ability of the international community to galvanize and respond,” said Ratner, a former deputy national security advisor to Vice President Joe Biden.

“If we don’t get our act together in Asia, we’re going to see this movie over and over and over again throughout the developing world.”

Inhofe alluded to studies showing that U.S. or NATO forces could potentially lose a war with Russia.

The Chinese and Russians already know that, Colby said.

“I’m more concerned that the American people understand that and have the urgency to stay ahead of this threat,” he said.

Sen. Roger Wicker pointed to the announcement Monday of indictments against the Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, a company with ties to Beijing’s military and security services.

The Pentagon banned sales of their products on base stores last year and Navy Secretary Richard Spencer has sounded the alarm about Huawei’s technology sneaking into the American military supply chain.

Colby said companies like Huawei give Beijing economic leverage against countries unsure of whether to side with America or China.

“This dissolves or corrodes the resolve of countries to potentially stand up to Chinese coercion,” he said.

At the same time, Colby testified, alliances and partnerships with Pacific Rim countries can forestall the belief that a Chinese world order is inevitable, which is why Washington should value and strengthen the ties.

“These alliances are enlightened self-interest, and not charity,” he said.

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Navy's new 'Age of the Mind' initiative is critical to defense

Jerry Hendrix, The Hill, February 19

The U.S. Navy's recent decision to focus on "Education for Seapower" comes not a minute too soon. The initiative, announced last week, seeks to organize the many disparate education programs offered to Navy and Marine Corps enlisted and commissioned members alike at various stages of their careers under one Naval University System. It is an effort whose primary aim is to ensure that every



member of the Department of the Navy maximizes their opportunity to gain useful education, from associate's degrees offered through new "Navy Community Colleges," to doctorates offered through the Naval War College, the Naval Postgraduate School and other affiliated universities.

In short, it's a move to facilitate every sailor and Marine reaching their intellectual potential, thereby bolstering the human foundation of American seapower in the decades ahead. Such an investment will be critical as the nation moves into the coming era of great power competition with China and Russia.

Much will be written about the administrative aspects of the initiative, the creation of a three-star Naval University president, a civilian Fortune 500-like "chief learning officer" and an "N7" flag or general resourcing leader. Some will ask questions about how long it will take to implement the initiative, whether it is budget neutral, or if it simply will add another layer of bureaucracy to the Department of the Navy. Many of these questions will come from uniformed leaders of the Navy, who over the past two generations have favored engineering-based approaches to problem-solving rather than deeper intellectual examination.

Resistance also will come from entrenched civilian bureaucrats who instinctively seek to oppose new initiatives that threaten established programs. But the real focus ought to be on the intended goal of this initiative: More intellectually prepared sailors and Marines.

Make no doubt of it, this next era will be dominated by the mind. Thus far, the Navy has divided its history into the "Age of Sail," the "Age of Steam," the "Nuclear Age," and most recently, the "Missile Age." What comes next will be the "Age of the Mind," as sensors and networks make ships, aircraft (manned and unmanned) and weapons extensions of the human brain, with its unique ability to recognize complex patterns and respond in an innovative manner at the speed of thought.

In a world in which ongoing advances in machine autonomy will be catalyzed by rapid progress in artificial intelligence, a core element of securing seapower advantage in the future likely will be linking the human mind with increasingly capable machines in innovative ways. Our enemies no longer study American doctrine; they know we won't use it in war anyway.

An important aspect of the Education for Seapower report is its emphasis on the importance of critical thinking and strategic education. Inundated by quarterly business reports, weekly sporting events and hourly news cycles, Americans have become far too shortsighted. There always has been an assumption that Americans will handle the future when they get there, and while there is some historical basis for this perspective, it seems increasingly unlikely to hold true in the future.

The nation needs a new generation of naval leaders who can think deeply and across the span of time stretching before us, to address the strategic challenges facing the nation. It needs leaders who have a multidisciplinary understanding of history and science, who appreciate the impact of economics and demographics, and who can see various historic streams and scenarios with clarity that comes only with true critical thought. Such skills have become scarce in an age where annual budgets, bumper stickers and PowerPoint slides substitute for analysis and strategic formulation.

That is why the new Education for Seapower is necessary and must be nurtured to ensure its continuance beyond the next two or six years of the present administration. While pursuing an education in a specific academic discipline is important, the final degree is not the most important product. It is far more important for education to teach sailors and Marines how to reason for themselves, as well as to afford them the opportunity to learn how they, as individuals, best learn.

This is the life skill, the training and disciplining of the human mind to take in information, organize it,



and then utilize it under changing circumstances. It is this goal that the secretary of the Navy's new program seeks to achieve. To adopt and amend a quotation applied to Winston Churchill, in an age where war will occur literally at the speed of thought, Education for Seapower seeks to mobilize the full potential of the human mind and send it into battle.

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Meet the 5 Deadliest Stealth Weapons of All Time (And the F-22 Made the List)

Kyle Mizokami / The National Interest / Feb 15

Why nothing is more deadly than a "stealth" weapon.

Stealth, or the idea of reducing the ability of the enemy to detect a weapon, has been around since the first caveman sewed a pocket into his clothing and hid a rock in it.

(This first appeared in 2015.)

Thousands of years later, with the ability to detect objects on the ground, in the air and at sea using electromagnetic radiation, hiding weapons in plain sight has become much harder. The idea of making an aircraft invisible to radar waves was not pursued as the properties of radar with regards to object shape were not fully understood.

Pyotr Ufimtsev, a Russian physicist, published a number of papers on predicting the reflection of electromagnetic waves—radar waves. The Soviet Union, not understanding the gravity of his work, translated many of them into English.

But aerospace engineers at Lockheed did, and extrapolated from it a correct theory on reducing the radar cross section of aircraft. The result was the Lockheed F-117A Nighthawk stealth "fighter." Since then, stealth has been an integral part of every tactical aircraft deployed by the United States. Here are five of the most lethal stealth weapons of war.

SR-71 Blackbird:

Famous for being the fastest plane ever built, the SR-71 is less well known for being a stealthy aircraft. The SR-71, which cruised at Mach 3.2, was one of the

first aircraft to incorporate multiple stealth features into its design.

First flown in 1962, the SR-71 incorporated four stealthy features into its design. First, surfaces were designed to avoid reflecting radar waves. Second, the aircraft's wings, tail and fuselage made use of composites, alternating with titanium, on the idea that composites were radar-absorbing. Third, the massive J-58 afterburning engines, with their large air-gulping inlets were positioned close to the fuselage of the airplane.

The fourth feature incorporated into the SR-71 was a black paint infused with tiny iron ferrite spheres. The paint, which gave the SR-71 its distinctive "blackbird" look and helped reduced the plane's radar cross section, cost \$400 a gallon. Altogether, the SR-71's stealthy design gave it a radar cross section of less than 10 square meters. By comparison, the radar cross section of an early F-15 Eagle is 100 square meters.

The first operational stealth aircraft, the F-117 is often mistakenly referred to as a "stealth fighter." Contrary to popular belief, the F-117 is actually a tactical bomber, with no air to air capability.

The F-117 was developed from the top secret Have Blue project, which produced two stealth technology demonstrating aircraft. The Have Blue aircraft emphasized a low radar signature over aerodynamic performance, and indeed needed fly-by-wire technology just developed for the F-16 to prevent the aircraft from losing control in flight. Fifty nine F-117 Nighthawk stealth fighters were eventually built.

The existence of the "stealth fighter" was speculated for much of the 1980s, reaching a frenzy after a July 1986 crash of a F-117 outside Bakersfield, California. The attempted cover-up only served to heighten public interest, and the Air Force confirmed the existence of the plane in 1988.

The F-117 first flew in combat in 1989, when it bombed targets during the invasion of Panama. The F-117 next flew in Operation Desert Storm, flying nighttime missions over Baghdad, and participated in no-fly zone operations against Iraq in the 1990s. F-117s flew missions over Kosovo in 1999, and Iraq



during 2003's Operation Iraqi Freedom. The F-117 was retired in 2008.

B-2 Spirit:

First revealed in 1988 by the Northrop Corporation, the B-2 Spirit was to be America's first truly stealthy strategic bomber. The tailless design was meant to minimize the aircraft's radar signature, allowing it to penetrate Soviet air defenses during a nuclear war.

The end of the Cold War ended justification for a full scale order of 132 planes, and only 21 were built. The success of the F-117 Nighthawk during the 1991 Gulf War showed the utility of stealthy aircraft capable of conventional precision strike, and the B-2 fleet was modified to conduct conventional missions. The B-2 is capable of carrying everything from B61 nuclear gravity bombs to conventional Joint Directed Attack Munition (JDAM) bombs, to the enormous, 30,000 pound Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP).

The B-2 first flew in combat over Kosovo in 1999. The aircraft has also flown in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2011, three B-2s flying from the continental United States struck a Libyan airfield during Operation Odyssey Dawn.

F-22 Raptor:

The first operational stealth fighter, the F-22 Raptor was designed to replace the F-15 Eagle. Unlike previous American stealth aircraft, including the F-117 and B-2, the F-22 was to be a fighter, using stealth to give it decisive advantage in air-to-air combat. Declared operational in December 2005, the F-22 is the world's best fighter, outclassing all current and projected fighters, and the only operational so-called fifth generation fighter.

The F-22 began life in the late 1980s as the Advanced Tactical Fighter (ATF). ATF would be the first aircraft to incorporate stealth in a highly maneuverable, fighter-type platform. The F-22 is designed to provide minimal radar and infrared signatures, the two primary homing mechanisms for air-to-air missiles. The radar cross section of the F-22 is estimated by manufacturer Lockheed Martin as, from some angles, approximate to a "steel marble."

The U.S. Air Force originally planned to order 750 F-22s to replace the F-15A and F-15C, but orders were slashed to 183 aircraft.

Ohio-class nuclear missile submarine:

Stealth doesn't just apply to aircraft—submarines have been incorporating stealthy features for decades. Among submarines, the most powerful combination of lethality and stealth is almost certainly the Ohio-class nuclear powered ballistic missile submarines.

A popular—possibly apocryphal—legend about the Ohio class holds that they were never detected by rival Soviet submarines and submarine detection systems.

The Ohio submarines, at 18,450 tons submerged are the largest submarines ever built by the United States. Stealthy features include a cylindrical, fish-shaped hull for fast movement with minimal noise. Noise-generating equipment is placed on sound-isolating mounts. The nuclear missile silos, laid out in two rows behind the sail, are flush with the hull to decrease flow noise. The subs also mount two steam turbines, one for quiet operation.

Eighteen Ohio-class submarines were built—fourteen serve on as ballistic missile submarines while four were rearmed with conventional Tomahawk cruise missiles.

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Base Officers & Key Personnel

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garygalles@hotmail.com

Junior Vice Commander: Adam Kingsley
757-535-4179
tk593@aol.com

Secretary & Treasurer: Craig Werner
757-373-3142
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COB: Craig Dudley
757-971-5021
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Storekeeper: Ryan Straughan
318-607-6213
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Chaplain: Brian Krammes
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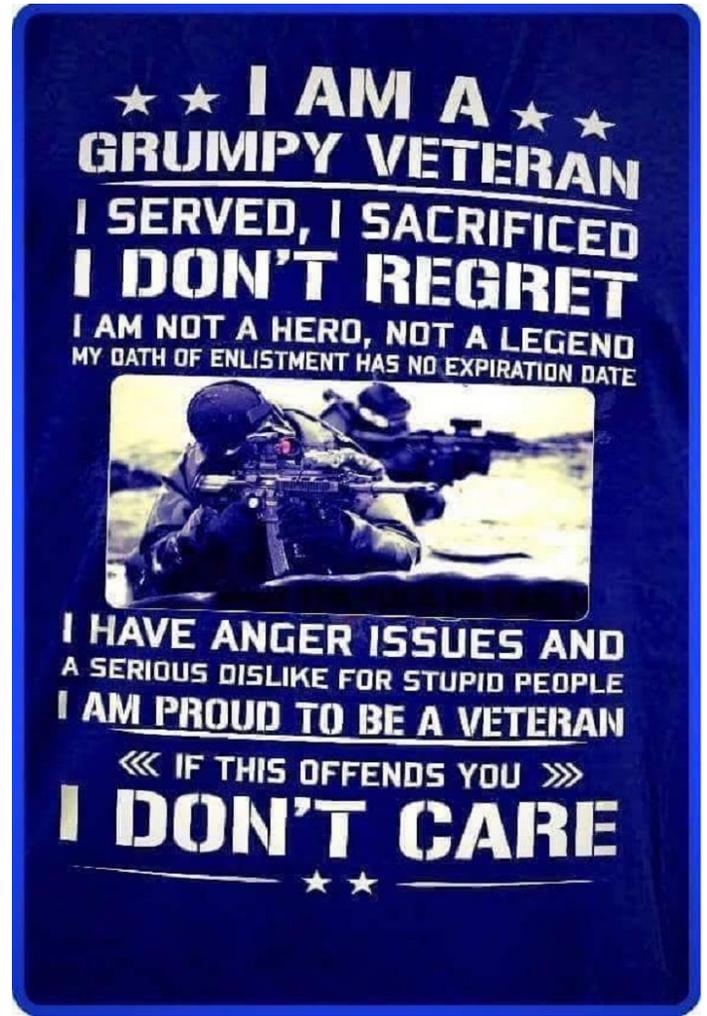
Events Coordinator: Adam Kingsley
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Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Co-coordinators: Rich Corey
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srcorey1@charter.net, sidofva@gmail.com

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Hampton Roads Base

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.



*"To Perpetuate the Memory of our Shipmates, who gave their lives
in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country."*

Regular Base Meeting Minutes for 16-FEBRUARY-2019

Meeting was called to order by Base Commander, Ted Vorce at 11:15 hours and the normal meeting opening sequence was followed:

- A moment of silence for our departed brother and sister submariners was observed.
- The invocation was made by Base Chaplain, Brian Krammes.
- The USSVI Creed was read by the Base Senior Vice Commander, Gary Galles.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Base Commander, Ted Vorce.
- The Tolling of the Boats Ceremony was read by Base Secretary & Treasurer, Craig Werner while the bell was rung by Base Senior Vice Commander, Gary Galles.
- New members were asked to stand to identify themselves, the boat they qualified on.
- Any members visiting from National Leadership, Region Leadership, District Leadership, or other Bases were asked to identify themselves.
- A round robin of introductions was then held with all members present identifying themselves with their qualification boats along with introducing any guests they brought to the meeting.

Binnacle List: Base Chaplain, Brian Krammes:

- Al Budd – Had a final checkup after his rotator cuff surgery on his right shoulder this week.
- Harry Seibel – Was at today's meeting.
- Vern Stuart – Had his gall bladder removed and is still recovering but doing well.
- Tom Pauls – Out today with some sort of heart issue, going to have it checked out this week.
- Jim Taylor – Was supposed to have back surgery but that has been cancelled until his blood sugar (diabetes) is under better control.

Secretary's Report – Base Secretary & Treasurer, Craig Werner:

- The minutes of the 19-JANUARY-2019 Base Meeting were emailed out to all members on 20-JANUARY.
- All members are reminded to keep the Secretary informed of any changes in email address, snail mail address, phone number or any other personal statistics on file with the Base and National.
- Please also give me any other phone numbers or email addresses that you use.
- I need everyone's help to keep everything up-to-date, please let me know about any changes needed.
- When you receive the monthly roster, please, look it over for any blanks that you can fill in and get that information to me.
- The Base Chaplain, Brian Krammes, and I especially need to know about any members who should be on the Binnacle list but aren't.
- If you need a member's identity badge contact Terry Pattison, in person or by email (TPattison@Cox.net), so that he can generate one for you.
- There is no new news on the new USSVI.org website. No one knows, at this point, when it will be up and functional, however, the American Submariner magazine is again available through the USSVI National website as it was before.

Treasurer's Report – Base Secretary & Treasurer, Craig Werner:

- The combined Base Operating and Investment Accounts opening balance as of 01-JANUARY-2019 was \$ 38,494.58.
- The Base Operating Accounts had an income for the month of JANUARY-2019 of \$ 1109.03.
- The Base Operating Accounts had expenditures for the month of JANUARY-2019 of \$ 1653.14.
- The Schwab One Investment account started on 01-JANUARY-2019 at \$ 22,111.55 and ended on 31-JANUARY-2019 at \$ 22,256.58 for a net increase/~~decrease~~ of \$ 145.03 for the month of JANUARY-2019.
- The HRB Scholarship Program and General Operations Fund opened on 01-JANUARY-2019 at \$ 1314.33, after donations, and expenditures totaling \$ 165.00, ended on 31-JANUARY-2018 at \$ 1328.83.
- The HRB Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Program opened on 01-JANUARY-2019 at \$ 3603.15, after donations, expenditures, and interest totalling \$ 0.09, the program ended on 31-JANUARY-2019 at \$ 3603.24.
- The HRB Emergency Relief Fund opened on 01-JANUARY-2019 at \$ 1095.24, after donations, interest, and one expenditure, totaling \$ 21.03, ended on 31-JANUARY-2019 a \$ 1116.27.
- The Storekeeper's Petty Cash as of 31-JANUARY-2018 was \$ 288.80.
- This has resulted in a net increase/~~decrease~~ of \$ 544.11 in the combined Base Operating and Investment Accounts for JANUARY-2019.
- The combined Base Operating and Investment Accounts ending balance as of 31-JANUARY-2019 was \$ 38,160.39.

Store Keeper's Report: Base Storekeeper, Ryan Straughan:

- The calendars that were ordered are in and available for pickup, if you ordered one please see me.
- We also have some extra 2019 calendars for sale, please see me.
- All On-Hand merchandise is available for sale.
- Patches and other merchandise from National can be ordered through the Storekeeper.
- All the materials on the Help-Yourself table are no cost but feel free to make a contribution to the donations bucket, it helps and is appreciated.
- If you have something specifically you need from THE Store Keeper, send him an email (Ryan.A.Straughan@gmail.com).

Committee Reports:

- **Membership Committee** – Base Senior Vice Commander, Gary Galles:
 - The annual membership renewal drive for 2019 is complete; we've lost a total of – 7 – members.
 - Nationally, USSVI had more than – 800 – members fail to pay their 2019 dues to renew their membership for one reason or another.
 - We are running the Life Dues by installment program in 2019.
 - You can still sign up for the program but you will have to make up any missed payments.
 - With this program you pay your Life dues in ten equal monthly installments January through October.
 - You **MUST** contact Craig to sign up for this.

- Quarterly Wellness Check Program
 - We still haven't been able to reach **CS1(SS) Roy Palmer** and we need some help here.
- The roster of all HRB members sent out on 11-FEBRUARY-2019.
- With gains and losses we are at **-285-** members; this is a gain of **-20-** members over where we were this time last year and that's great! We need to keep up the good work of bringing in new members.
- **WOO-HOO!!! WE'VE DONE IT!!!** I've looked over the membership numbers nationally again and, as of now, we have taken over 2nd place nationally by **-11-** members.
- After the annual membership renewal drive, Hampton Roads Base is ahead of Charleston Base by **-11-** members (this information is as of the date of the Base roster, 11-FEBRUARY).
- As a reminder, anyone on Active Duty that is qualified to wear dolphins may join USSVI at no charge for the first year, through 2019.
 - If you have any questions contact Craig.
- If you have any suggestions of ways to increase our membership and meeting attendance please let the Base leadership know of it.
- Anyone who thinks they are due a USSVI Longevity Pin should see Craig after the meeting.
- **Scholarship Committee** – Base Senior Vice Commander, Gary Galles:
 - HRB Scholarship Applications can now be submitted.
 - Applications with supporting documentation may be submitted by email to [**\(GrumpyOldSquid@gmail.com\)**](mailto:GrumpyOldSquid@gmail.com).
 - Anyone who needs a set of the HRB scholarship documents for the 2019-2020 scholastic year should contact Craig by email [**\(GrumpyOldSquid@gmail.com\)**](mailto:GrumpyOldSquid@gmail.com).
- **Program & Events Committee** – Base Junior Vice Commander, Adam Kingsley:
 - Recently Completed Events:
 - There was a K4K visit at NMC-P on 22-JANUARY-2018.
 - Sailor-of-the-Year Presentation Ceremonies will be on 30-JANUARY-2019.
 - There was a Field Day to clean-up the grounds here at FRA #60, Saturday, 02-FEBRUARY-2019 and one of our members participated.
 - There was a FRA #60 meeting here Wednesday evening, 13-FEBRUARY-2019.
 - Our first Khaki Social of the year was yesterday.
 - Pending Events:
 - There will be a K4K visit at NMC-P on 19-FEBRUARY-2019.
 - There will be a NSL meeting, 18:30-20:00 hours, at the Norfolk Room, Sewells Point Golf Course, Thursday, 21-FEBRUARY-2019.
 - There will be a Field Day to clean-up the grounds and such here at FRA #60 starting at 08:30 hours, Saturday, 02-MARCH-2019.
 - We will have a Base meeting at 11:15 hours, Saturday, **09-MARCH-2019**.
 - There will be a FRA #60 meeting here Wednesday evening, 13-MARCH-2019.
 - There will be a K4K visit at NMC-P on 19-MARCH-2019.
 - The 119th Submarine Birthday Ball will be on Friday, 05-APRIL-2019 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center starting at 18:00 hours.

- There will be a Field Day to clean-up the grounds and such here at FRA #60 starting at 08:30 hours, Saturday, 06-APRIL-2019.
- There will be a FRA #60 meeting here Wednesday evening, 10-APRIL-2019.
- There will be a NSL meeting, 18:30-20:00 hours, at the Norfolk Room, Sewells Point Golf Course, Wednesday, 17-APRIL-2019.
- There will be a FRA #60 meeting here Wednesday evening, 17-APRIL-2019
- We will have a Base meeting at 11:15 hours, Saturday, 20-APRIL-2019.
- 2019 Southeast Region Conference, Monday, 29-APRIL through Thursday, 02-MAY.
- There will be a Field Day to clean-up the grounds and such here at FRA #60 starting at 08:30 hours, Saturday, 04-MAY-2019.
- There will be a FRA #60 meeting here Wednesday evening, 08-MAY-2019
- The Submarine Memorial and Hall of Fame Boat ceremonies will be 16-MAY-2019.
- We will have a Base meeting at 11:15 hours, Saturday, 18-MAY-2019.
- There will be a K4K visit at NMC-P on 21-MAY-2019.
- The 51st anniversary of the loss of USS SCORPION will be 22-MAY-2019.
- The 135th Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade in Portsmouth is on Monday, 27-MAY-2019.
- There will be a Field Day to clean-up the grounds and such here at FRA #60 starting at 08:30 hours, Saturday, 01-JUNE-2019.
- There will be a FRA #60 meeting here Wednesday evening, 12-JUNE-2019
- The Holland Club Induction Ceremonies FOR YEAR GROUP 1969 will be during our 15-JUNE-2019 meeting.
- There will be a K4K visit at NMC-P on 18-JUNE-2019.
- There will be a NSL meeting, 18:30-20:00 hours, at the Norfolk Room, Sewells Point Golf Course, Wednesday, 19-JUNE-2019.
- There will be a Field Day to clean-up the grounds and such here at FRA #60 starting at 08:30 hours, Saturday, 06-JULY-2019.
- There will be a FRA #60 meeting here Wednesday evening, 10-JULY-2019
- The Base Picnic Meeting and Scholarship Award Announcement will be on 20-JULY-2019.
- There will be a K4K visit at NMC-P on 23-JULY-2019.
- There will be a Field Day to clean-up the grounds and such here at FRA #60 starting at 08:30 hours, Saturday, 03-AUGUST-2019.
- There will be a FRA #60 meeting here Wednesday evening, 14-AUGUST-2019
- We will have a Base meeting at 11:15 hours, Saturday, 17-AUGUST-2019.
- There will be a K4K visit at NMC-P on 20-AUGUST-2019.
- There will be a NSL meeting, 18:30-20:00 hours, at the Norfolk Room, Sewells Point Golf Course, Wednesday, 21-AUGUST-2019.
- **Ways and Means Committee** – Base Junior Vice Commander, Adam Kingsley:
 - We still need a good fundraiser for this year.
 - If you have an idea for a fundraiser, please, send the specifics to leadership by email.
 - A raffle for two pair of tickets to the 2019 Base Winter Holiday Party will be sold at the raffles table at our meetings from now through October.
 - Raffle tickets are \$1 each (there are no multi-ticket discounts).
 - Submarine Pens are available for sale; see the Base Secretary & Treasurer, Craig Werner, after the meeting to purchase your pens, \$1 each or 6 for \$5.
 - If you have suggestions for any other income streams let Base Leadership know of them.

- **Public Relations and Publicity Committee** – Base Secretary & Treasurer, Craig Werner:
 - I'm putting together a PSA about the Submarine Memorial and Hall of Fame Boat ceremonies that I'm going to try to get on WNIS and other local news outlets.
 - I intend to put together another PSA, this one for the USS SCORPION memorial observation.
 - A reminder for everyone, please wear your HRB ball caps and other USSVI logoed clothing (shirts, jackets, etcetera) when running around and about town. - We want to be seen, to get our name out in the community and to promote our public image.
 - If you need a new windbreaker Jenny Dugan, our Sewing Wench, will be happy to make one for you.
 - I have HRB generic business cards for everyone to carry see me if you need any.
- **Newsletter Committee** – Base Secretary & Treasurer, Craig Werner for Newsletter Editor, Marlin Boyle:
 - If you have anything for next month's newsletter, get it in by the twenty-fifth of this month.
 - Any new members need to see the Newsletter Editor, Marlin Boyle to have their picture and simple biography included in the newsletter.
- **Website and Social Media** – Base Webmaster, Sam Stevens
 - **Website statistics since last meeting**
 - Number of New Site Members approved since last meeting – 04
 - Total number of website member/users - 91
 - Number of unique visitors to the site since last meeting - 41
 - **Facebook statistics**
 - New **Page members** since last meeting - 03
 - New **Page Interactions** since last meeting - 258
 - New **Page Likes** since last meeting - 180
 - **Special Notes**_(non-repeating: new web pages, forms, banners, special announcements)
 - I have begun creating the infrastructure for the NORFOLK SAIL PROJECT.
 - New standalone email address to support the project.
 - New (unpublished) website pages are under construction for when they become necessary - in the interim I have created a Norfolk Sail area on the Base Website but it is hidden until Brian Daugherty gives the go-ahead.
- **Submarine Memorial and Hall of Fame Committee** – Committee Chairman, Ken Swan:
 - We're still waiting on the SLF CO for a final date for the Submarine Memorial and Hall of Fame Boat ceremonies (tentatively 16-MAY-2019).
 - We have a CPO PoC at the SLF now.
 - We're meeting now to go over the checklist and make sure everything is tracking.
 - CAPT Karr (2nd Baton Rouge CO) is looking forward to speaking at the ceremony.
- **Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Committee** – Base Secretary & Treasurer, Craig Werner for Committee Co-Chairman John Sidlovsky:
 - We visited on Wednesday, 22-JANUARY when we got together with 3 boys and 2 girls aged from 6 days through 8 years along with 5 moms to be.
 - We had a crew of 5 for the visit.
 - We will visit the kids again this Tuesday, 19-FEBRUARY after meeting at 09:30 hours, in the 2nd floor Food Court of Building 3 at NMC-P.
 - If you are going to participate, please let Sid know by email or voice mail.
 - Anyone wanting to make a donation specifically to the Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) program should get it to Craig and make sure you specify it's for the Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) program.

- **Hampton Roads Base Emergency Relief Fund Committee** – Base Secretary & Treasurer, Craig Werner for Committee Chairman, John Sidlovsky:
 - We've had no formal requests for assistance since our last meeting.
 - If you are in need of financial help, as per our Bylaws, contact any member of the committee.
 - Anyone wanting to make a donation specifically to the Emergency Relief Fund should get it to Craig and make sure you specify it's for the Emergency Relief Fund or drop it into the ERF Donations Box on the booze table.
- **SCORPION Memorial Committee** – Committee Chairman, John Donaldson:
 - The 51st anniversary observance of the loss of USS SCORPION will be 26-MAY-2019.
 - It will be in Newport News.
 - It will be coordinated by the Knights of Columbus.
- **NORFOLK Sail Committee** – Committee Chairman, Brian Dougherty:
 - Brian's flight from California was delayed and he couldn't make it here today so no update.

Old Business:

- Ted Vorce - The 2018 COMSUBLANT Sailor of the Year Awards Ceremonies were held on, 30-JANUARY and we had 10 SubVets there.
- Ted Vorce - We had a Submarine Khaki Social yesterday, the first in over 2 ½ years.
 - It went very well.
 - We had a total of about 50 attendees including 14 SubVets.
 - First Colonial Finance picked up half the cost of the event.
- Ted Vorce - The 119th Submarine Birthday Ball will be on Friday, 05-APRIL-2019 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center starting at 18:00 hours.
 - Tickets are going to be \$60 per person (subject to change).
 - A signup sheet is going around so we can get a good idea of how many seats/tables we're going to need.
 - There is nothing about a hotel yet but we're still looking.

New Business - Base Senior Vice Commander, Gary Galles: There will be a planning meeting for renovations of the parade floats at 18:00 hours, Wednesday, 20-FEBRUARY at VFW #392 in Virginia Beach.

Program: - (none)

Good of the Order:

- **After Meeting Luncheons** - Base Secretary & Treasurer, Craig Werner.
 - I need help on what you guys want for the lunches here; we seem to be having the same things over and over again.
 - I need suggestions from you guys as to what you want for the lunches.
- **Review of boats lost in this month** – Base Secretary & Treasurer, Craig Werner:
 - USS SHARK (SS-174) in 1942
 - USS AMBERJACK (SS-219) in 1943
 - USS GRAYBACK (SS-208) in 1944
 - USS TROUT (SS-202) in 1944
 - USS BARBEL (SS-316) in 1945

- **Review of members' birthdays for the month – Base Commander, Ted Vorce:**
 - John Springett on 01-FEBRUARY
 - Gary Merryman on 03-FEBRUARY
 - Tom Murray on 03-FEBRUARY
 - Fred Lowack on 05-FEBRUARY
 - Mike McNamara on 08-FEBRUARY
 - Tommy Moore on 09-FEBRUARY
 - Lynn Pattison on 12-FEBRUARY
 - Scott Humpert on 17-FEBRUARY
 - Bill Neff on 19-FEBRUARY
 - Taco Villarial on 19-FEBRUARY
 - Tim Richard on 20-FEBRUARY
 - Gene Destafano on 21-FEBRUARY
 - Ron O'Donnell on 21-FEBRUARY
 - John Elliott on 23-FEBRUARY
 - Bob Rockefeller on 27-FEBRUARY
 - Cecile Walraven on 30-FEBRUARY (Leap Year Baby)
- The 50/50 raffle of \$ 126 was won by: John (Doc) Ritz (the base received \$ 125).
- The booze raffle was won by: Glen Little (the base received \$ 135).
- Winter Holiday Party tickets raffle brought in: \$ 22.
- There was \$ 18 donated through the Donations Bucket for the Scholarship Program and General Operations Fund.
- Pen Sales brought in: \$ 25.
- There was a total of \$ – 0 – was donated for the Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Program.
- There was a total of \$ 8 was donated for the Emergency Relief Fund.
- There were – 59 – members and – 4 – guests present at this meeting.

Our next Regular Base meeting will be **09-MARCH-2019** here at FRA Hall #60.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:55 hours by Base Commander, Ted Vorce.

Fair Winds and Following Seas,



EMCS(SS) Craig S. Werner, U.S.N. (Ret.)
Hampton Roads Base Secretary & Treasurer
 222-5 Sandpiper Drive
 Portsmouth, VA 23704-1543
 757-373-3142

Storekeeper's Inventory

(as of: 16-FEBRUARY-2019)

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>Qty. On Hand</u>	<u>Unit Price</u>
BALL CAPS		
HRB-USSVI (Silver Dolphins)	6	\$ 15.00
HRB-USSVI (Gold Dolphins)	1	\$ 12.50
HRB-Submarine Veteran (Silver Dolphins)	4	\$ 15.00
HRB-Submarine Veteran (Gold Dolphins)	5	\$ 15.00
HRB-USSVI (Commander)	1	\$ 12.50
US Sub Vets Inc. (Commander)	3	\$ 12.50
US Sub Vets Inc. (Captain)	2	\$ 15.00
Holland Club (Silver Dolphins)	0	\$ 15.00
Holland Club (Gold Dolphins)	2	\$ 15.00
HRB-USSVI - Khaki (Silver Dolphins)	6	\$ 15.00
HRB-Submarine Veteran - Khaki (Gold Dolphins)	3	\$ 15.00
PATCHES & CLOTHING		
Hampton Roads Chapter Patch	39	\$ 8.00
USSVI Patch (4-1/2 x 3-1/8)	2	\$ 10.00
USSVI Patch (3-5/8 x 3)	0	\$ 3.00
USSVI Patch (2-7/8 x 2-3/8)	0	\$ 3.00
USSVI Life Member Patch	2	\$ 6.00
Vice Commander	1	\$ 3.50
Life Member Rocker Patch	0	\$ 6.00
Holland Club Patch	3	\$ 7.00
Vice President Patch	1	\$ 3.00
Base Secretary Patch	1	\$ 3.00
Base Chaplain Patch	1	\$ 3.00
Base Store Keeper Patch	2	\$ 3.00
Associate Member Patch	1	\$ 3.00
USSVI Bolo Tie	2	\$ 7.00
USSVI Booney Hat (Khaki w/ Gold Dolphins)	1	\$ 20.00
Vest Clasp w/ Silver Dolphins	3	\$ 25.00
MISCELLANEOUS		
HRB Challenge Coins	116	\$ 10.00
HRB Decal (Silver Dolphins)	20	\$ 5.00
HRB Decal (Gold Dolphins)	2	\$ 5.00
Dolphin Decals (6")	0	\$ 1.75
License Plate Frames	1	\$ 4.50
2019 USSVI Calendars	9	\$ 10.00



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COMSUBLANT Sailor of the Year Program

EMCS(SS) Craig S. Werner, U.S.N. (Ret.)

HRB Secretary & Treasurer

In 1972, the CNO, Admiral Elmo Zuwalt, initiated the Navy-Wide Sailor of the year program to provide recognition of the Navy's outstanding Sailors through numerous presentations, awards, and ultimately, for our senior Sailor's, Meritorious Advancement to the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

Each one of the Sailors who have competed in this year's program represent the ever-growing group of dedicated professionals who serve as role models and exhibit honor, courage, and commitment to their profession. It is these Sailors, and many more like them, that make our navy the most capable and powerful navy in the world. Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic (COMSUBLANT) is just one part of that big picture. Each Sailor who is announced as his/her Command's Sailor of the Year will continue on to their parent ISIC to compete. After that competition, they go on to compete for the Region Sailor of the Year. SUBLANT is divided into three regions for the selection process, the Northeast Region (Groton), Mid-Atlantic Region (Norfolk), and Southeast Region (Kingsbay). Each region sends one Shore and one Sea Sailor for their chance to be named the COMSUBLANT Sea or Shore Sailor of the Year. The winners go on to compete at the Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command competition. The best from each Type Commander is represented at this level of competition. The SUBLANT Selection Board consists of active duty senior enlisteds, a member of the Hampton Roads Base - USSVI, and a member of the local Naval Submarine League. The candidates are all exceptional sailors; the Board is under a lot of pressure to compare the candidates and hard pressed to determine the best of the best.

Getting Sailors ready requires coordination with Type Commanders using guidance provided in OPNAVINST 1700.10N (SAILOR OF THE YEAR PROGRAM) to ensure each competing Sailor has a complete package for each board member. For the Sea Sailors, the competition ends with Fleet Forces. For the Shore Sailors, they will have to get ready for a final competition at the Chief of Naval Operations level (this allows for reservists to compete). This process starts in September of the previous year and does not end until the summer of the following year. Many man-hours are put into this program to ensure the best of the best is at each level. The Sailor of the Year Program run by COMSUBLANT highlights and recognizes the best of the outstanding Sea and Shore sailors of SUBLANT.



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Hampton Roads Base Quarterly Wellness Check Program for our Senior Members

EMCS(SS) Craig S. Werner, U.S.N. (Ret.)
HRB Secretary & Treasurer

The Hampton Roads Base looked at our membership roster and noted we had several members who were 80 years old or older. Many of these members we hadn't seen at a meeting or other event or had any contact with in some time and we were concerned about their wellbeing. After consideration, it was decided to make an effort to make personal contact with each of these members, in person face-to-face (preferably) or by voice phone call or by contact with their care giver (as a last resort) and to do this at least once per calendar quarter.

We started by sorting the Base roster on the USSVI website by birthdays and separating out those members who had already had their 80th birthday and making a separate list of them. We established a small committee to reach out and check on these members, to make sure they were doing okay and were taking care of themselves or being cared for by someone.

In the process of checking on these approximately 60 members, most of whom are life members of USSVI and HRB, we found that two of them had passed onto Eternal Patrol without anyone in the Base being aware of their passing, much to our sorrow and chagrin. We also found that we had lost all contact with one member; none of our contact information for him was accurate. From what we had on file, he was pre-deceased by his wife and we had no information on any children or any other contacts. We traced him to a senior care center but he was no longer there and citing HIPPA privacy laws they wouldn't tell us where he had gone. We reviewed all the local, state and national obituaries but there was no record of him passing. We even checked through the USSVI National officers trying to find out what had happened to him. We had no success in making any contact with him and we continue to carry him on our roster, hoping to re-establish contact with him or learn what has happened to him.

We are in our third calendar quarter of running this program and it has been very well received by the members we're trying to make contact with and any families that we contact in the process of checking on their family member. We feel this program is worth any expenditure of time and that it falls under the USSVI Creed in that we are looking out for each other.