

American Submariners Inc.
4370 Twain Ave.
San Diego, CA 92120-3404



The Silent Sentinel *June 2017*



Our Creed and Purpose

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.



Ramona Parade. 20 May 2017

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Paul Hitchcock

The Silent Sentinel via Email

To all of my Shipmates and families who currently receive our Great newsletter via the mail who would like it sent via email or continue to receive it via mail, please fill out the form and mail it to the base or myself. We are trying to cut the cost of the newsletter down from \$3700 to about \$1900 a year. By receiving the Silent Sentinel via email will cut down the printing and mailing cost. The other plus to receiving it via email is you can save it on your computer and not have the paper lying around the house.

A subscription to the Silent Sentinel newsletter will be available to surviving family members via internet email, at no charge, upon notification of the Membership Chairman. If a printed hard-copy is preferred, via US Post Office delivery, an annual donation of \$5.00 will be requested to cover costs.

NAME: _____

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Would like the SILENT SENTINEL emailed: YES _____ NO _____

USSVI Base Commander
c/o VFW Post 3787
4370 Twain Ave.
San Diego, CA 92120-3404

*DUE TO LOGISTICS CONSTRAINTS, ALL INPUTS FOR THE SILENT SENTINEL MUST BE IN MY HAND NO LATER THAN **ONE WEEK** AFTER THE MONTHLY MEETING. IF I DO NOT RECEIVE IT BY THIS TIME, THE ITEM WILL NOT GET IN. NO EXCEPTIONS! MIKE*

June 2017 MEETING

Our monthly meeting is held on the second Tuesday of the month at VFW Post 3787, 4370 Twain Ave., San Diego. Our next meeting will be on *June 13th*. The post is located one-half block West of Mission Gorge Road, just north of I-8. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. The E-Board meets one hour earlier at 6 p.m.

*Check us out on the World Wide Web
www.ussvisandiego.org*

Binnacle List

*Harry Humpreville, Frank Walker, Glen Gerbrand,
Everett Mauger, and Marie Tate (Wife of WWII VET Charlie)*

Submarine Losses in June

Originally Compiled by C J Glassford



USS Herring (SS-233)

Lost on June 1, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Matsuwa Island. Herring was on her 8th war patrol and was conducting a surface attack when a shore battery spotted her and made 2 direct hits on her conning tower and causing her loss. Before being sunk, she had sank a freighter and a passenger-cargoman. Herring was the only US submarine sunk by a land battery.

USS R-12 (SS-89)

Lost on June 12, 1943 with the loss of 42 men near Key West, FL during a practice torpedo approach. The cause was probably due to flooding through a torpedo tube. The CO and 2 other men on the bridge survived, as did 18 crew members on liberty at the time of the accident.

USS Golet (SS-361)

Lost on June 14, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. On her 2nd war patrol, Golet was apparently lost in battle with antisubmarine forces north of Honshu.

USS Bonefish (SS-223)

Lost on June 18, 1945 with the loss of 85 men when sunk near Suzu Misaki. Winner of 3 Navy Unit Citations, Bonefish was on her 8th war patrol. After sinking a passenger-cargoman, Bonefish was subjected to a savage depth charge attack.

USS S-27 (SS-132)

Lost on June 19, 1942 when it grounded off Amchitka Island. She was on the surface in poor visibility, charging batteries and drifted into the shoals. When she could not be freed and started listing, the captain got the entire crew to shore (400 yards away) in relays using a 3-man rubber raft. The entire crew was subsequently rescued.

USS O-9 (SS-70)

Lost on Jun 20, 1941 with the loss of 33 men when it foundered off Isle of Shoals, 15 miles from Portsmouth, NH.

USS Runner (SS-275)

Lost between June 26 & July 4th 1943 with the loss of 78 men. Runner was on her 3rd war patrol probably due to a mine. Prior to her loss, she reported sinking a freighter and a passenger-cargoman off the Kuriles. This boat's last known ship sunk happened on June 26th, so she probably hit that mine on or after that date but before July 4th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.



San Diego Base, United States Submarine Veterans Inc. Minutes of Meeting - 9 May 2017

1905 - Base Commander Warren Branges called the meeting to order.

Conducted Opening Exercises - Pledge of Allegiance lead by Chief of the Boat Bob Bissonnette.

Chief of the Boat Bob Bissonnette lead the prayer.

Chief of the Boat Bob Bissonnette conducted Tolling of the Boats for boats lost in the month of May. Junior Vice Commander Manny Birciaga recognized Past Commanders, dignitaries and guests.

Base Secretary Jack Kane announced 21 members and 2 guests present.

Base Treasurer Joe Peluso gave his report. A copy of the Treasurer's Report will be filed with these minutes.

The minutes of the 11 April 2017 meeting were approved as published in the Sentinel.

Base Commander Warren Branges Called For Committee Reports

Chief of the Boat Bob Bissonnette reported the following on the Binnacle List: Harry Humpreville, Frank Walker, Glen Gerbrand and Phill Richeson. Bob also noted that Marie Tate (Wife of WWII VET Charlie) took a fall and is recovering. Fred Fomby noted Everett Mauger is also on Binnacle.

Parade Chairman Joel Eikam announced the next parade is 20 May in Ramona. We will also participate in the La Mesa Flag Day Parade on 3 June.

Membership Chairman Ray Febrache reported our membership went up by two since the last meeting.

Scholarship Chairman Paul Hitchcock has received three Scholarship Packages. Paul asked for three volunteers to read and evaluate applications. Three members volunteered. Volunteers see Paul at the break for email and follow-up procedures.

Storekeeper Phill Richeson is on Binnacle List. No Report.

Base Commander Warren Branges reported the next Breakfast is 30 July 2017. Warren will circulate a signup sheet for wait staff for the event. We will only have 4 Breakfast dates this year. The VFW Hall will not be available on 31 December 2017. The VFW will be preparing for their Annual New Year's Eve celebration.

Float Committee David Kauppinen absent but it was noted that the float has some foam degradation. The boat has some dimples and ripples. David is looking for a fix. Some members thought the boat looked more realistic - it looks more like a boat that approached its depth capabilities.

Base Commander Warren Branges announced the next All Flags Day is 20 May. Flags will be put up promptly at 7:00am as we also have the Ramona Main Street Parade that morning.

Float Committee Chair David Kauppinen was not in attendance.

Boy Scout Committee Chair Nihil Smith reported that 1 Eagle Scout Presentation was made since last meeting. Another Eagle Scout Honor Court will be held on 21 May at 1700. Eagle Scouts are presented USSVI Certificates and a set of miniature dolphins.

1935 - Base Commander Warren Branges called for a break.

1950- Base Commander Warren Branges called the meeting back to order. 50/50 drawing was held. Juanita Williams won the 50/50 raffle. She donated her winnings to the Base Operating Fund.

1950 - Unfinished Business

Base Commander Warren Branges asked for Volunteers to fill out the following Committees:

Social Committee - Senior Vice Commander Robert Golembieski, Secretary Jack Kane. Need at least two more Volunteers for this committee. This committee will be responsible for setting up the Base Picnic and the Christmas Party.

Audit Committee - Three members Volunteered. The Committee is Ron Gorence, Chris Stafford, Peter Lary - The outgoing Base Commander, outgoing Treasurer, incoming Base Commander, incoming Treasurer and Incoming Base Senior Vice Commander (if available) will meet to do the audit before the next scheduled meeting.

Base Commander Warren Branges presented Assistant Treasurer David Ball's recommendation for a Fund Raiser. The Fund Raiser would be 300 Chances at \$10 per chance. First Prize Choice of 2 Day Baja Ocean Fishing Trip for 2 people (includes a 3 night stay at The Old Mill Hotel) or \$500. Second Prize, remaining prize not chosen by winner. Third Prize, \$100 cash. Base would realize \$2400 from the raffle. The Baja Ocean Fishing Trip and Hotel Stay have been donated by Jim Harer's Family (Owners of the Old Mill Hotel). A brief sheet is attached to these minutes. A motion to hold this raffle was made and seconded. Discussion was extensive. The Motion Passed. Assistant Secretary David is asked to facilitate the Raffle.

Western Region Director Bob Bissonnette presented 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 year Longevity Pins to 19 Base Members.

Joel Eikam and Peter Lary - 5 years.

Cliff Britt, Manny Burciaga, Bill Earl, Paul Hitchcock, Jack Kane and Nihil Smith - 10 Years.

Bob Farrell, Ray Febrache, Fred Fomby and Joe Peluso - 15 years.

Matt Baumann, Mike Hyman, James Pope and Chris Stafford - 20 years.

Ed Farley, Jim Harer and Dennis Mortensen - 25 years.

Base Commander Warren Branges presented Bob Bissonnette a 15 year pin

Base Commander Warren Branges everyone that the next All Flags Day is Armed Forces Day on 20 May. We will also participate in the Ramona Main Street Parade that day. Flags will put up at 7:00am on Liberty Station. Line-up for the Ramona Parade is from 8:15am to 9:45am. The Parade marches off at 10:00am.

The Base will participate in the La Mesa Flag Day Parade on June 3rd. The Parade starts at 10:00 am.

Warren Branges and Bob Bissonnette briefed the membership about the Insurance Policy currently paid for by National not being renewed when it expires in July. More about insurance coverage and its effect on future parade participation will be forthcoming.

Western Region Director Bob Bissonnette reported on the Western Region Roundup held in Las Vegas the last week in April. The Roundup was well attended. The Official Functions were well received and each banquet, lunch, brunch had copious amounts and varieties of food and beverages. The Free Shuttles to Las Vegas Strip and Fremont Street were used extensively by Roundup attendees. Next year's Roundup will be at Sam's Town in Las Vegas 23-30 April 2018. We hope to have some boat reunions in conjunction with the Roundup.

Base Commander Warren Branges reported on the Submarine Birthday Ball held on 6 May. Sand Diego Base sponsored two WWII Submarine Veterans, George Kinnison and Charlie Tate. Charlie was unable to attend as his wife was hospitalized due a fall. George Kinnison did attend. Scamp Base sponsored Colley O'Gorman who attended. Everyone who attended had a good time.

Base Commander Warren Branges ask for hand of those who are planning to attend National Convention in Orlando FL, 1 thru 6 September 2017. Three Base members will attend.

Base Commander Warren Branges announced the GLOCK 17 Pistol Raffle by Scamp Base will be held at the Scamp Base Meeting in Vista on 25 May. Anyone who wants to purchase raffle ticket see Warren after this meeting. No need to be present to win.

Base Commander Warren Branges asked that Social Committee volunteers contact Senior Vice Commander Robert "GOBI" Golembieski to finalize SUBVETS Picnic details. The Picnic will be held at Smugglers Cove on 8 July 2017 aboard Naval Base Point Loma.

2025 - New Business

Base Commander Warren Branges presented the following topics:

Committee Chairs and Base Officers are asked to send the Base Commander a list of events/deadlines for the Draft Calendar of Events by 6 June. This list should include things like Scholarship deadlines, audit/review requirements, etc.

It was suggested that the Base organize Saturday get-togethers. Some suggestions for social gatherings are: Tours of Deep Submergence Unit, Tours of Coast Guard ships, Midway Museum Tour, Wine Country Tour and a tour of Terry Ulmer's quasi Navy Museum in Alpine. More on this subject at future meetings.

2030 - Good of the Order

CMC(SS) Thom Metcalf's retirement ceremony will be held on 12 May at 1000 onboard Naval Base 32nd Street at the Base Theatre. We need volunteers to act help pipe Master Metcalf into retirement. Master Cheif Metcalf was formerly Command Master Chief at SUBRON 11 and Chief of the Boat of at least two submarines homeported in San Diego.

A memorial service will be held for Carla Kimmel, wife of longtime Scamp and San Diego Base Member Dennis Kimmel. The service will be held at Miramar National Cemetery on 24 May at 1000. Everyone is invited t attend.

The Meeting was adjourned at 2035.

/s/ Jack E. Kane
Jack Kane, Secretary

Sailing List for 9 May 2017

Members

Fred Fomby
Jack Kane
Joe Peluso
Bob Bissonnette
Nihil Smith
Matt Baumann
Peter Lary
Warren Branges
Ray Febrache
Bob Farrell
Manny Burciaga
Chris Stafford

Cliff Britt
Mike Hyman
Ed Farley
Paul Hitchcock
Dennis Mortensen
Jim Harer
James Pope
Bill Earl
Joel Eikam
Guests
Juanita Williams
LeRoy Schroeder

FUND RAISING PROPOSAL - 9 May 2017

For a fund raiser, this is a proposed raffle.....

30 books of chances
10 chances per book
\$10.00 per chance

Prizes:

First Place: \$500 cash or a 2 day ocean fishing trip for 2 people with 3 night stay at the Old Mill Hotel in San Quentin, Baja CA...includes breakfasts and dinners

Second Place: the remaining prize not chosen by the first place winner.

Third Place: \$100 cash

The fishing trip would be donated by The Old Mill so there is not cost to the Base.

If all 300 tickets are sold, the Base should end up with \$2400.

- of the \$3,000 taken in:
 - Fishing trip is no cost to the Base
 - \$500 - 2nd place prize winner gets either the fishing trip or \$500
 - \$100 - to the third place prize winner

Jim Harer's family owns the Old Mill in San Quentin, Baja CA, and in donating the fishing package.



The Federal Communications Commission has alerted consumers to be on the lookout for scam callers seeking to get victims to say the word “yes” during a call and later use a recording of the response to authorize unwanted charges on the victim's utility or credit card account. The fraudulent callers impersonate representatives from organizations that provide a service and may be familiar to the person receiving the call, such as a mortgage lender or utility, to establish a legitimate reason for trying to reach the consumer. The scam begins when a consumer answers a call and the person at the end of the line asks, “Can you hear me?” The caller then records the consumer's “Yes” response and thus obtains a voice signature. This signature can later be used by the scammers pretending to be the consumer and authorize fraudulent charges via telephone. If you receive this type of call, immediately hang up. If you have already responded to this type of call, review all of your statements such as those from your bank, credit card lender, or telephone company for unauthorized charges. If you notice unauthorized charges on these and other types of statements, you have likely been a victim of “cramming”.

Anyone who believes they have been targeted by this scam should immediately report the incident to the Better Business Bureau's Scam Tracker and to the FCC Consumer Help Center. (Reference <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-warns-can-you-hear-me-phone-scams>) David Kauppinen, USSVI San Diego Base Webmaster 6/1/17

Membership Longevity and Achievement Awards



Joel Eikam (5 Years)



Peter Lary (5 Years)



Bill Earl (10 Years)



Cliff Britt (10 Years)



Jack Kane (10 years)



Manny Burciaga (10 Years)



Nihil Smith (10 Years)



Paul Hitchcock (10 Years)



Bob Farrell (15 years)



Fred Fomby (15 Years)



Joe Peluso (15 Years)



Ray Febrache (15 Years)



Chris Stafford (20 Years)



Matt Baumann (20 Years)



Mike Hyman (20 years +23 years Sentinel Editor)



Dennis Mortensen (25 Years)



Ed Harer (25 Years)



Ed Farley (25 Years)



Nihil Smith (Eagle Scout Committee Chairman) presenting a Certificate of Achievement and a set of miniature dolphins to Dylan James Ellsworth. Dylan was promoted Eagle Rank at Boy Scout Troop 959's Eagle Scout Court of Honor at 1700 Hours on Sunday 21 May 2017.

Current News

*"Plataginet, I will; and like thee, Nero,
Play on the lute, beholding the towns burn" (Henry VI, Shakespeare)*

China Attempting to Leap Beyond Current US Technology with First Electric Drive On A Military Submarine
Brian Wang, Next Big Future, June 4

Chinese state media has reported that the China is fitting its newest nuclear sub with an electromagnetic engine that sounds a lot like Tom Clancy's fictional Red October engine.

Rear Admiral Ma Weiming, China's top naval engineer, is notably responsible for the development of multiple Chinese naval electromagnetic programs, including the electromagnetic catapult and railguns. He said the Chinese navy is adding a "shaftless" rim-driven pump jet, a revolutionary and silent propulsion system to their newest attack submarine, the Type 095 SSN.

This electric drive is an attempt to leap beyond current submarine technology to technology with a long history of attempted development. This is similar to China making a stronger commitment to develop a submersible arsenal ship. China is taking technology and designs with decades of history and actually implementing them.

Previous submarine pump jets are "shrouded propellers," which consist of a tubular nozzle covering the propeller. By removing the shaft of the propeller, the reduction in the number of moving parts decreases the noise made by the pump jet, as well as saving hull space. Smaller civilian rim driven electric pump jets are easier to maintain, and have less cavitation (bubbles that form during propeller movement), which make them even more quiet.

CCTV13 had a "Focus on the interview" segment on May 30, 2017. They discussed the of electric propulsion technology power of Admiral Ma Weiming. There was some discussion of the technology and spin about how China was moving beyond copying to attempt to create breakthroughs. The first few minutes of the video discussed telecommunication switching work of Zhang Ping.

Integrated Electrical Propulsion System (IEPS) turns all the output of the ship's engine into electricity, unlike traditional propulsion designs, which convert engine and reactor output into mechanical action to turn the propeller shaft. The high electrical output can also be used to power motors for the propellers or potentially high-energy weapons. Additionally, IEPS has far fewer moving parts, making them quieter, and thus ideal for use on submarines. When coupled with quieter reactors like the Type 095's reported natural circulation reactor, the rim-driven pump jet and IEPS can drastically reduce the acoustic signature of any SSN.

Westinghouse, the leading U.S. advocate, gave up in the late 1960s because the weight required to create a sufficiently powerful magnetic field would sink most ships.

In the early 1990s, Japan succeeded in making a 100 foot long 8 mph prototype surface ship called the Yamato. A group of Japanese physicists and naval architects quickly realized that the powerful magnetic coil made possible by superconductors could transform the MHD ship from old dream to new reality. A consortium of universities and major high-tech firms here committed about six years ago to forge ahead with a \$40 million-plus project to build the propeller-less MHD ship.

US and UK have tried to get electric drive to work but have not committed to it for their next generation submarines

The US Columbia submarine and UK Dreadnought will not start construction for a few years and the first unit will be ready around the 2031. They have not decided to use electric drive and may choose more conventional propulsion systems.

The US and UK military and researchers have been working on electric drive propulsion tests for at least two decades. The RED-I motor used a wet gap permanent magnet motor to turn a ring of propeller blades. Two RED-I motors are mounted in free flood areas in the submarine mud tank, forward of the stern planes. The permanent magnet motor employed is large enough to permit a four feet diameter UUV to internally pass through the RED-I propulsor system in order to deploy from the stern of the submarine.

There has been general acceptance that there is potential benefit for quieter submarines using this technology but the US has opted for more conventional approaches for quieter submarines.

Various electric motors are being or have been developed for both military and non-military vessels. Those being considered for application on future U.S. Navy submarines include: permanent magnet motors (being developed by General Dynamics and Newport News Shipbuilding) and a high-temperature superconducting (HTS) synchronous motors (being developed by American Superconductors as well as General Atomics).

More recent data shows that the US Navy appears to be focusing on permanent-magnet, radial-gap electric propulsion motors (e.g. Zumwalt-class destroyers use an advanced induction motor). Permanent magnet motors are being tested on the Large Scale Vehicle II for possible application on late production Virginia class SSNs as well as future submarines. Permanent magnet motors (developed by Siemens AG) are used on Type 212 class submarines.

Reports on the Royal UK Navy Dreadnought-class submarine (i.e., the class that will replace the Vanguard class SSBNs) state that the submarines may have submarine shaftless drive (SSD) with an electric motor mounted outside the pressure hull. SSD was evaluated by the U.S. Navy as well but it remains unknown whether the Ohio class replacement will feature it. On contemporary nuclear submarines steam turbines are linked to reduction gears and a shaft rotating the propeller/pump-jet propulsor. With SSD, steam would drive electric turbo-generators (i.e., generators powered by steam turbines) that would be connected to a non-penetrating electric junction at the aft end of the pressure hull, with a watertight electric motor mounted externally (perhaps in an Integrated Motor Propulsor arrangement) powering the pump-jet propulsor, although SSD concepts without pump-jet propulsors also exist. More recent data, including an Ohio Replacement scale model displayed at the Navy League's 2015 Sea-Air-Space Exposition, indicates that the Ohio Replacement will feature a pump-jet propulsor visually similar to the one used on Virginia class SSNs. The class will share components from the Virginia class in order to reduce risk and cost of construction.

Undersea Arms Race Looks Set To Hot Up

Crispin Andrews, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, June 7

On Monday 29 May, British nuclear submarine HMS Torbay surfaced not far from Gibraltar in an apparent show of military strength, amid fears that the Spanish government might use Brexit as a pretext to stake a territorial claim on the Rock.

The following day, in Bremen, Germany, naval officers from all over Europe gathered for the first session of the annual Undersea Defense and Technology exhibition and conference. For three days, suits mingled with military uniforms, a few smart casuals, and a lot of security guards.

Academics and industry representatives were there to consider how the latest technology might affect, or even change, the role of undersea defense, with international relations increasingly unpredictable.

To the casual observer, the event, held at the Messe Bremen exhibition halls and the OVB Arena, which stages music and sports events as well as conferences, exhibitions and trade fairs, looked like any other trade show. There was no space for submarines or warships, but plenty of exhibition stands and meeting areas. And lots of banners proclaiming cutting-edge technology, market-leading innovation and other corporate buzz phrases that would have had George Orwell cringing over the death of his beloved English language.

Conference chairman Peter Hauschildt, from ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems, explained that recent geopolitical changes --conflicts in the Middle East, confrontations in the Far East, and nationalist voting in Britain and the US-- provide opportunities for new underwater defense technologies.

What does the future hold?

Defense budgets are set to rise, according to conference speaker Rear Admiral Thorsten Kähler, chief of staff of the German Navy, as the US keeps pressing its European allies to do more around the world. Eighty exhibitors were there to take advantage.

Delegates discussed the role of unmanned vehicles, network capability, platform design, sensors, processing technologies, materials, new ways of storing and exploiting energy underwater, and operator and system performance. There were also experts at the conference talking about, and trying to sell, weapons systems. Just in case, with all the talk of defense and security, we forgot that submarines actually carry highly sophisticated and very deadly offensive weapons.

Tom Avsic, a hydro-acoustics engineer at ThyssenKrupp, spoke about how active sonar helps to detect submarines that give off less radiated acoustic noise. Henrik Berg, from the Norwegian Defense Research Establishment, introduced his country's operational simulation framework, Rattus. Matthew Gleed, an engineer from BAE Systems, shared his views on the challenges of operating submarines in an age when information and cyber warfare is increasingly common.

Reports last month claimed that several Asian navies --from Thailand, India, China, and even Myanmar-- are expected to put 250 high-tech submarines into the west Pacific in the next eight years. Russia has in production the world's largest submarine, apparently for Arctic research. And the Australian government recently said that it needed more submarines to ensure free passage for commercial vessels in the south Pacific, in the event of any future conflict. Then there's President Donald Trump and his (alleged) gunboat diplomacy in North Korean waters.

Captain Herman de Groot, head of the submarine service of the Royal Netherlands Navy, told the conference that in the future submarines would need to be less like fast jets and more like aircraft carriers able to deploy on-board systems. Rear Admiral Kähler explained that navies would need submarines that can adapt to a variety of threats, both immediate and future.

And that's just the tip of a very big and very lucrative iceberg.

U.K., France, U.S. Sign Submarine Agreement
 Staff, The Maritime Executive, June 5

Navy leaders from the U.K., France and the U.S. signed an agreement on June 1, designed to increase coordination for anti-submarine warfare activities in the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman and Red Sea.

Naval chiefs from the three navies affirmed their commitment to enhanced interoperability in the area encompassing the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet area of operations. "We believe this increased trilateral cooperation will help secure a future that is not only in the interests of our three nations, but in the common interests of our allies, partners and all like-minded nations who are committed to peace, prosperity and maritime security," an excerpt from the statement read.

The U.S., U.K. and French navies regularly operate together in the region. France has deployed its nuclear aircraft carrier FS Charles de Gaulle twice to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Inherent Resolve aimed at defeating ISIS in the region.

In 2015, a French admiral, embarked on Charles de Gaulle, commanded NAVCENT's Task Force (TF) 50, a U.S. task force. A Royal Navy admiral also assumed command of TF 50 last November while embarked aboard the amphibious helicopter carrier HMS Ocean. Additionally, both navies have had ships serving as part of TF 50 and with the Combined Maritime Forces in the region.

In May, the International Maritime Exercise 2017, led by U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, was held to promote interoperability in all facets of defensive maritime warfare. The exercise included personnel from the U.S. and more than 20 partner nations, as well as representatives from the civilian shipping industry group Oil Companies International Marine Forum.

Participants took part in field exercises simulating realistic scenarios that have occurred in or threaten the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations. Situations included a simulated missile attack, mine threats, a mine strike on a naval vessel and a fast attack craft threat.

U.S. 5th Fleet's area of operations encompasses about 2.5 million square miles of water area and includes the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and parts of the Indian Ocean. The expanse is comprised of 20 countries and includes three critical choke points at the Strait of Hormuz, the Suez Canal and the Strait of Bab al Mandeb at the southern tip of Yemen.



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