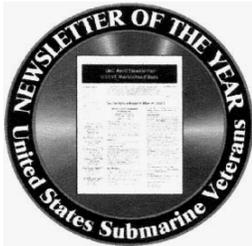


American Submariners Inc.
4370 Twain Ave.
San Diego, CA 92120-3404



The Silent Sentinel July 2013



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.

Joint SUBVETs Annual Picnic *Enjoy a Day of Fun under the Sun!!*

There will be
lots of food,
games, Sub
Tours, & door
prizes!!



Sub Tours are
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Picnic is on SUB BASE at Smugglers Cove on
Sat 13 July 2013 from 0900-1630

If you need Base access contact RayFerbrache 619-972-4474

Ray Ferbrache
arayz@san.rr.com
Cell 619-972-4474

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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.

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*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*

July 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 July 9, 2013. 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

Benny Williams, Al Strunk, Tommy Cox, Jim Harer, Bobby Medina.

ETERNAL PATROL

Donald Shoemaker, Charlie Tenhonen, Rufus Reaves.

Submarine Losses in June

Originally Compiled by C J Glassford



- O-9 (SS 70) - 33 Men on Board :
 Foundered, on 20 Jun 1942, During Deep Submergence Tests, off the Coast of New London, Connecticut :
 "ALL HANDS LOST"
- S-27 (SS 132) - 50 Men on Board :
 Grounded on Shoals off Amchitka Island, on 19 Jun 1942, Crew Abandoned Ship, Swam to the Island, and were
 Rescued by PBY's from Dutch Harbor, Six Days Later :
 "NO LOSS OF LIFE"
- R-12 (SS 89) - 48 Men on Board :
 Foundered, on 12 Jun 1943, After Battery Flooded, while off Key West Florida : "ALL HANDS LOST"
- HERRING [Bell] (SS 233) - 84 Men on Board:
 Sunk, on 1 Jun 1944, by Japanese Army Shore Battery. Off Matsuwa Island, in the Kuriles :
 "ALL HANDS LOST"
- S-28 [Bell] (SS 133) - 50 Men on Board:
 Sunk, on 4 Jun 1944, During ASW Exercises Off the Hawaiian Islands : "ALL HANDS LOST"

GOLET (SS 361) - 82 Men on Board:
Probably Sunk, on 14 June 1944, by Japanese Guard Boat, Auxiliary
Submarine Chaser, and Naval Aircraft Attack, Off Northern Honshu, Japan : " ALL HANDS LOST "

BONEFISH (SS 223) - 85 Men on Board :
Sunk, on 18 Jun 1945, by Combined Efforts of Destroyer Escort, and 4 Coastal Defense Vessels, off the Southern Coast of
Honshu, Japan : " ALL HANDS LOST "

SARGO [Bell] (SSN 583) - 95 Men on Board :
Oxygen Feeder Line Fire and Explosion, on 14 Jun 1960, in After Torpedo Room, Blaze Extinguished by Submerging at
Pier in Pearl Harbor, with Compartment Sealed, and After Torpedo Room Hatch Open :
" 1 MAN LOST "



Minutes for Submarine Veterans San Diego, 11 June, 2013

1900 – Meeting of the Submarine Veterans Inc., San Diego Base was called to order by Base Commander, Bob Bissonnette.

Conducted Opening Exercises:

Reading of Our Creed:

Pledge of Allegiance: Lead by Bill Earl

Chaplain Jack Lester lead us in Prayer:

Conducted Tolling of the boats for June

Observed a moment of Silent Prayer

Base Commander recognized past E-Board members, Past Officers and guests.

Secretary Ferguson announced 37 members and 5 guests (Jessie Chang, Ryan Mohedano, Wayne Spani, Don Spani, and Eric Spani) present.

Treasurer Report: Dave Ball announced \$1437 in checking, \$16,240 in savings, Total \$17,677 in the account.

The Minutes of the 14 May, 2013 meeting have been published in the SILENT SENTINEL and were approved.

Base Commander presented \$500 scholarship award to Ryan Mohedano, son of member Russ Mohedano.

Base Commander presented a National Award to Mike Hyman for the Western Region Base Newsletter Excellence.

Base Commander presented a Float Committee certificate of appreciation to Mert Weltzien.

Base Commander presented plaques to Wayne, Don, and Eric Spani for their efforts in production of the new Base Float and a check for \$500 in appreciation for those efforts. Rocky Rockers, Doug Smay Base Commander, also presented a \$200 check.

Call for Committee Reports:

Chaplain Binnacle List – Tommy Cox, Jim Harer, Benny Williams, Al Strunk, and Bobby Medina. Chaplain Lester announced that Donald Shoemaker, Charlie Tenhunen, and Rufus Reaves were on eternal patrol.

Parade Committee – Joel Eikam reminded us of the Oceanside Parade on June 29th and the July 4th parade in Julian. Muster in Julian is likely 10a.m. with parade at noon. Come early as parking is a premium.

Membership - Ray Ferbrache announced three new members since last month.

Storekeeper – Phil Richeson has patches and shirts are available online.

Breakfast – Fred Fomby announced next breakfast on 30 June from 8-12 at \$7. Volunteers with food handling cards are needed.

Float Committee – David Kauppinen announced a battery was donated and \$46 remains in the budget. That should cover the cost of mounting over the wheels.

1935 Base Commander called for a Break.

1945 Base Commander called the meeting back to order.

Unfinished Business:

Memorial Day Services at Pt Loma Base were held and most members and guests had little trouble getting into the base. Base Commander reminded the members that the Navy would no longer require base stickers to enter Navy Bases as of July 1st but suggested we do not remove our stickers as other services may still require them.

The 2013 National Convention in Rochester, MN is August 25 – September 1 and the deadline for “early bird” registration is July 1st.

This years SubVet picnic at Smugglers Cove Park at the Pt. Loma Base is 13 July from 0900-1600 with boat tours at 1000 and 1300 (only 1 boat in port). Sign up for the tour with about 25 persons allowed at each scheduled tour time.

Members bring side dishes and chips with the Base providing the meat and beverages.

The Holland Club donations from the base total \$164. After tonights collection, the total will be sent to the Holland Club Commander.

New Business:

The Chula Vista Veterans Walk to benefit the Chula Vista Veterans Home will be conducted on 2 November. The Kick-off event is 6 July at Rohr Park with a “cool down” at the American Legion Post with food, beverages, and a band. A Team Rally is scheduled for 12 October. Rocky Rockers informed us that the Doug Smay Base is actively involved with the American Legion Post to present this event thereby getting the USSVI name publicity.

We have another wheel chair available and Mike Hyman has a list of needy recipients.

Good of the Order:

The VFW wives are holding “Xmas in July” on 27 July 4-7PM. \$7 turkey dinner.

David K. E-Board should consider “Recruit Cards” for members to hand out in an effort to recruit.

He also mentioned Birthdays for Charlie Marin on the 4th, Ed Walsh on the 9th, and Ray Ferbrache on the 20th.

Manny B. Thanked the members for their contribution to the Scorpion Memorial and related a few memorable stories from the gathering.

Jack K. Is looking for volunteers to help out June 22nd with the Community Rescue Team.

Base Commander Bissonnette adjourned the meeting at 2020.

Jack Ferguson, Secretary

Sailing List for June 11, 2013.

Fred Fomby	Bob Farrell	Jack Ferguson
Jack Lester	Bill Earl	Charlie Marin
Bob Bissonnette	Bud Rollison	Joe Sasser
Phillip L. Richesen	Phillip J. L. Richeson	Jack Kane
Chris Stafford	Richard A. Smith	Ray Ferbrache
David Ball	Mert Weltzien	Dob (Doc) Coates
Dave Lemby	James Pope	Manny Burciaga
Joel Eikam	Ed Farley	Mike Hyman
Dennis Mortensen	Russ Mohedano	Tom Polen
Ed Welch	Ron Gorence	G. Prince
David Kauppinen	Rocky Rockers	Bob Chapman
Warren Branges	Dennis McCreight	Peter Lary

Current News

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

Submarine Technology Boosts U.S. Oil Flow

Melanie Schinkel, Wallstcheatsheet.com, June 25

An adaption of an acoustic spy technology used by U.S. submarines called “fracking” is guiding oilfield engineers to finishing wells and determining oil flow levels.

The sounds recorded by a fine glass thread two miles underground has become music to the ears of drilling equipment providers such as Halliburton Co. (NYSE:HAL). Bloomberg reports that the technology provides the ability to hear inside a well and enables producers to fine-tune hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, the process that blasts underground rock with water, sand, and chemicals to free trapped oil and natural gas.

Glenn McColpin, director of reservoir monitoring at Halliburton’s Houston-based Pinnacle unit said, “Halliburton, the world’s largest provider of fracking services, is working on cataloging the combination of sounds that signal the perfect frack: an explosion, cracking rock, and eventually the gurgle of hydrocarbons seeping into the well bore.”

According to Bloomberg, once perfected, a computer will convert the sounds to a graph that will show how deeply and thoroughly cracks penetrate the rock surrounding the well, indicating the success of each frack stage. The longer and more numerous the cracks, the more oil and gas will flow.

“Our whole goal is to make the perfect frack every time,” McColpin said. “You’re spending millions of dollars pumping millions of gallons of fluid, and if you’re only getting a third of the rock, you’re getting a third of the production.”

“Our whole goal is to make the earth transparent,” McColpin added. “Now we’ve got a window into the well to see exactly what’s happening.”

Bloomberg reports that fracking has assisted U.S. oil production in reaching a 21-year high.

“We’re creating a new science,” said Magnus McEwen-King, managing director for OptaSense, a unit of the UK-based energy innovator Qinetiq Group Plc. “From an acoustic perspective, this is very much the start of what I think is going to be a revolutionary technology.”

While fracking is a relatively new tool for the oil production industry, U.S. submarines were using acoustic fiber-optic technology back in the late 1990s

Wis. sailor dies in Guam

KIEL, Wis. (AP) — A U.S. Navy sailor from Wisconsin has died in a diving accident in Guam.

The Navy says 22-year-old Diver 3rd Class Robert Dotzler of Kiel was found unconscious Wednesday while conducting diving operations on U.S. Naval Base Guam.

Dotzler was assigned to the USS Frank Cable, a submarine tender.

According to navytimes.com, Dotzler was not diving, but observing other divers from the water’s surface in a “snorkeling-like role.” When the other divers surfaced, they noticed Dotzler was missing and found him at the bottom of the harbor.

Dotzler was pulled from the water unconscious and later pronounced dead at Guam’s Naval Hospital.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reports the Navy is conducting an investigation.

The War Against Invisibility

Strategypage.com, June 26

The U.S. Navy has been secretive about how effective it has become in detecting non-nuclear submarines. That discretion is necessary to prevent the enemy from fixing any vulnerabilities you are exploiting. The quietness of modern

diesel-electric boats puts nuclear subs and surface ships at a serious disadvantage, especially in coastal waters. This is a big problem for the United States, which went to an all nuclear submarine fleet half a century ago. While the nuclear sub is the most effective high seas vessel, especially if you have worldwide responsibilities and these nukes would have to quickly move long distances to get to the troubled waters, the diesel electric boat, operating on batteries in coastal waters, is quieter and harder to find.

For over a decade the U.S. Navy has been trying to get an idea of just how bad the threat is and developing technologies and tactics to deal with it. This was part of a larger ASW (anti-submarine warfare) effort that began in the 1990s to deal with post-Cold War submarine threat. A major part of this effort using a state-of-the-art non-nuclear subs to practice on. Thus from 2005 to 2007 the United States leased a Swedish sub (Sweden only has five subs in service) and its crew, to help American anti-submarine forces get a better idea of what they were up against. This Swedish boat was a “worst case” scenario, an approach that is preferred for training. The Gotland class Swedish subs involved are small (1,500 tons, 64.5 meters/200 feet long) and have a crew of only 25. The Gotland was based in San Diego, along with three dozen civilian technicians to help with maintenance.

For many years before the Gotland arrived, the U.S. Navy had trained against Australian diesel-electric subs and often came out second. The Gotland has one advantage over the Australian boats because of its AIP (Air-Independent Propulsion) system (which allows it to stay under water, silently, for several weeks at a time). Thus the Gotland was something of a worst case in terms of what American surface ships and submarines might have to face in a future naval war. Since the Gotland experiments the U.S. has borrowed other AIP subs for further work in refining detection methods. None of America’s most likely naval opponents (China, North Korea, or Iran) only China has built some AIP boats yet. These three nations have plenty of diesel-electric subs which, in the hands of skilled crews, can be pretty deadly. China is making an effort to create experienced and well trained crews.

Based on the experience with Australian, Swedish, German and other subs, the U.S. Navy has been developing new anti-submarine tactics and equipment. All this is done in secret, obviously. But apparently the modern, quiet diesel electric boats continue to be a major threat to U.S. surface warships and subs. Meanwhile, potential enemies build more of their cheaper and higher quality diesel-electric boats and train their crews by having them stalk actual warships (including U.S. ones). The subs are getting more numerous, while U.S. defenses are limping along because of the sheer technical problems of finding quiet diesel-electric boats in coastal waters.

The U.S. has found that, given current sensor (sonar, magnetic, heat, chemical) technology it is possible to detect very quiet diesel-electric and AIP subs. To do this required many small tweaks to existing sensors. AIP boats, in particular, were found to have many vulnerabilities. The AIP technology generated more noise and heat than just using batteries. The more the U.S. studied AIP subs in operation the more ways they found these subs could be detected. It is known that the passive (listen only) sonar systems in the new Virginia class SSNs (nuclear attack sub) was tweaked to better find diesel-electric and AIP boats.

Despite keeping most of the details secret, some potential targets of these new ASW capabilities realized the danger they were in. One reason China wants to keep American naval forces out of their economic zone (370 kilometers from the coast, an area which does not bar foreign warships) is so that Chinese diesel electric subs can train without being stalked by American subs, surface ships, and aircraft looking for realistic practice tracking Chinese boats. At the same time the U.S. Navy has lost the full use of its most effective underwater anti-submarine training area (a well mapped and instrumented area off southern California) because environmentalist activists have convinced judges that the use of active sonar in this training area is harmful to some species of aquatic animals. So going after potential targets off their coasts is more important than ever.

There are 39 nations operating a total of 400 diesel electric subs. Only three of these nations (China, Iran, North Korea) are likely to use their subs against the U.S. or its allies. China has fifty of these boats, Iran has three (plus 25 much smaller mini-sub) and North Korea has 20 (plus 50 much smaller mini-sub). So the U.S. has to worry about 73 diesel electric subs and 75 mini-sub. But about half the full size subs are elderly, obsolete, and noisy. The same can be said for at least half the mini-sub. That leaves about 36 full size subs and 40 mini-sub that are a clear threat (though the older stuff can be a threat if you get sloppy). That’s a lot of subs, and they make the East Asian coast and the Persian Gulf dangerous places for American warships.

Moreover, the North Korean and Iranian fleets (and governments) are in decline, while China is pouring more cash into their armed forces. If there’s any diesel-electric boats the U.S. Navy has to be extremely concerned about, it’s the Chinese. While China continues to try and develop world class nuclear subs, they are also moving ahead in creating world class diesel electric boats.

Despite BMD Leaders' Objections...

GOP Senators Continue Push For East Coast Ballistic Missile Defense Site

John Liang, InsideDefense.com, June 25

Although senior missile defense leaders continue to insist that “no validated military requirement” exists for a Ground-based Midcourse Defense site on the East Coast, some Senate Republicans are still pushing for one.

In the report accompanying the Senate Armed Services Committee’s fiscal year 2014 defense authorization bill, Ranking Member James Inhofe (R-OK) and Sens. Jeff Sessions (R-AL), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Deb Fischer (R-NE) and David Vitter (R-LA) write that the panel’s calling on the Defense Department to deploy an X-band radar or a comparable sensor on U.S. soil “is a good first step toward addressing the growing [intercontinental ballistic missile] threat from Iran and, potentially, other countries. But it does not go far enough: we also need to proceed as soon as possible with the deployment of an additional interceptor site on the East Coast to compensate for the loss of the planned third interceptor site in Poland.”

The senators, writing in the report’s “additional views” section, contend that the Obama administration’s proposal to increase the numbers of Ground Based Interceptors in Alaska, “while sound, is not sufficient,” adding that the Alaska and California sites had “inherent limitations.”

“An additional homeland missile defense site on the East Coast would raise the probability of successfully engaging Iranian threats and preserve GBI inventory in Alaska for North Korean threats,” the senators write, citing a study conducted by the National Research Council of the National Academies which stated: “While it is kinematically possible to defend the eastern part of the continental United States (CONUS) against threat ICBMs from the Middle East using GBI sites at Fort Greely and Vandenberg, AFB, an additional GBI site located in northeastern CONUS would be much more effective and reliable and would allow considerably more battle space and firing doctrine options.”

But two senior missile defense officers don’t think the time is right for an East Coast missile defense site. In a June 10 response to a letter from Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin (D-MI), Missile Defense Agency Director Vice Adm. James Syring and Joint Functional Command for Integrated Missile Defense chief Lt. Gen. Richard Formica write that “no validated military requirement” exists for a Ground-based Midcourse Defense site on the East Coast.

Syring and Formica also say they oppose lawmakers’ mandating the deployment of an East Coast site before the completion of an environmental impact statement.

Instead of deploying an East Coast site, “investment in Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) discrimination and sensor capabilities would result in more cost-effective, near-term improvements to homeland missile defense,” the senior officers’ letter states. “The Department of Defense is evaluating potential sensors enhancements that could be pursued to improve the BMDS kill chain and increase threat discrimination in addition to the evaluation of an additional interceptor site.

“While a potential East Coast site would add operational capability it would also come at significant material development and service sustainment cost,” Syring and Formica continue. “This evaluation, and others, will serve to inform decisions on our future BMDS architecture and budget requests.”

For their part, Sen. Inhofe and his colleagues contend that “it is hard for the administration to argue it can’t afford an East Coast site when the budget of the Missile Defense Agency has seen drastic cuts over the past few years. The President’s five-year spending plan for MDA for FY2012-2016 amounted to \$43.5 billion; for the five year plan from FY 2014-2018, that amount declined by \$5.9 billion to \$37.6 billion.

“Moreover, the cancellation of the SM-3 block IIB missile and the Precision Tracking Space System by the President means that MDA avoids some \$3.5 billion in spending over the next five years,” the senators continue. “Had those savings been returned to the Missile Defense Agency, there would have been ample funding for an East Coast site.”

As for the environmental impact studies, the senators write that Congress should not have to await the analyses’ conclusion “before determining whether such a deployment is in the interests of the United States.”

The Senate Armed Services Committee marked up its version of the fiscal year 2014 defense authorization bill last week. House authorizers completed their mark-up the previous week.

The report accompanying the Republican-led House Armed Services Committee’s FY-14 defense policy bill states that the panel “believes such a site is critical to the defense of the United States,” and recommends \$140.4 million “for

site activities related to the development and deployment of an East Coast missile defense site, as follows: \$10.2 million for site activities; \$25.0 million for site planning and design related to site concept and master plan development for design work; and \$35.0 million for ground system development. The committee notes that remaining funds should be spent by the Director, Missile Defense Agency to accelerate site activities.”

Shrinking Warhead Stocks Mean Uncertain Future for Nuclear Triad

Megan Scully, CQ Roll Call, June 25

The Pentagon has vowed to preserve the famed nuclear triad despite President Barack Obama’s goal to cut strategic nuclear weapons by as much as a third, avoiding — at least for now — a heated political debate over the future of the nation’s land-, sea- and air-based delivery systems.

At some point, though, the nuclear arsenal may simply become too small to justify the expense of maintaining and replacing the aging bombers, submarines and intercontinental ballistic missiles that make up the triad. Where that point might be, however, is a matter of intense debate.

Indeed, any discussion of altering the triad is a political minefield. The Cold War construct was an accidental doctrine that grew out of intense service rivalries in the 1950s and 1960s. But in the intervening decades, it has become sacrosanct in many quarters, due as much to parochial interests as strategic concerns.

Earlier this year, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel’s confirmation was dogged by a Global Zero report he co-authored that proposed eliminating the nation’s intercontinental ballistic missiles as part of bilateral negotiations with Russia.

To quell criticism and ultimately win Senate support, Hagel pledged to stand by the triad. Modernizing all three legs, he said, should be a “national priority.”

Just hours after Obama used a June 19 speech in Berlin to call for nuclear reductions, Hagel filled in some blanks and once again vowed to protect the triad.

“As we pursue these reductions, let me emphasize three things — three things that will not change,” Hagel said June 19 at the University of Nebraska. “First, the U.S. will maintain a ready and credible deterrent. Second, we will retain a triad of bombers, ICBMs and ballistic missile submarines. Third, we will make sure that our nuclear weapons remain safe, secure, ready and effective.”

Hagel’s comments might table, temporarily, any official discussion about the future of the triad. On Capitol Hill, Republicans and Democrats alike do not appear to be even considering the possibility of abandoning the three-pronged nuclear deterrent.

“We ought to start off with the premise that we want to keep the triad,” Senate Armed Services Chairman Carl Levin said last week.

But it is nonetheless a topic that lawmakers and defense officials alike will revisit in the coming years, particularly as the high bills for building new long-range bombers, ballistic missile submarines and ICBMs begin to mount.

Broaching a Dyad

Some current and former military officials have attempted to at least lay the groundwork for that debate in recent years. Adm. Mike Mullen made headlines just days before retiring as the military’s top officer in 2011, when he uttered the word “dyad” in a speech, saying maintaining the triad might become cost prohibitive the smaller the nuclear arsenal gets.

Retired Gen. James E. Cartwright, the former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, helped further fuel the debate when he co-authored the Global Zero report. In an interview last week, Cartwright argued that reducing a leg of the triad could actually benefit national security if Obama’s goal of reducing the arsenal to about 1,000 nuclear warheads becomes a reality.

With a smaller nuclear arsenal, Cartwright argued, there is no room for error. In short, it may be better to fully invest money and manpower in two legs of the triad — building in any necessary redundancies — than spread resources too thinly across all three legs.

“You’re going to have to have a substantially higher degree of assurance that weapons work and that delivery systems will get through,” Cartwright said. “Is there a tipping point somewhere here around the 1,000 number that says that I would have so few missiles or so few bombers or so few submarines that if one of them failed it could be sufficient to actually make my capability not assured?”

Former Rep. Ellen O. Tauscher, a California Democrat who served as undersecretary of State for arms control and international security affairs during Obama's first term, said the future of the triad is one issue that will be reviewed again and again as the number of weapons decreases.

"There has to be a level of confidence, and for decades we were able to have size provide confidence," she said. "And when size starts to be less of a crutch, then you've got to make tough decisions."

However, Tauscher does not expect any major changes to the nation's nuclear posture to happen quickly. The triad, for instance, may continue to be effective until the nation's strategic warheads dip to the 800 range.

"I'm confident that we are still, on a timeline, a good way away from having to make a decision about our nuclear posture, the size and the breath of the stockpile and the triad," she said. "But they are looming issues."

Others believe that keeping the delivery platforms intact could ultimately make getting to lower levels of warheads easier. If supporters of each leg of the triad fear their leg will be the one eliminated, they won't be on board with further reductions to the arsenal.

"I think you reduce the support for lower numbers [of warheads] if you don't commit yourself to the triad," said Morton H. Halperin, a nuclear expert and veteran of the Johnson, Nixon and Clinton administrations.

The political sensitivity is clear. In the immediate aftermath of Obama's speech, 10 self-described "missile states senators" from Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Utah and Wyoming blasted Obama's proposed reductions and defended the need for ICBMs.

Cartwright said he doesn't expect to see any resolution to the debate over the size of the nuclear arsenal in general — or the triad in particular — anytime soon. Obama's speech in Berlin, he said, was simply the first step in an arms-reduction dialogue that will span multiple administrations and Congresses.

"This is going to cross into the next administration, which I think is probably a good thing," Cartwright said. "He has allowed a process by which it won't just be an edict."

Former Chief Of Naval Operations Admiral Kelso Leaves Legacy Of Service, Integrity

Navy News Service, June 24

WASHINGTON – Admiral Frank Kelso II, 79, former Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), died Sunday, June 23, 2013, following injuries sustained from a fall earlier in the week.

Kelso, a native of Fayetteville, Ten., served as Chief of Naval Operations from June 29, 1990 until April 23, 1994.

As the Chief of Naval Operations and throughout his career as a naval officer, Kelso was renowned for his intelligence, integrity and upstanding character.

"Admiral Kelso was a submariner, an accomplished commander, and an unmatched leader known for his intelligence and integrity. The thoughts of the 900,000 Sailors, Marines and civilians who make up the Department of the Navy go out to our fallen shipmate and his family. Semper Fortis," said Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus.

"Adm. Frank Kelso's bold leadership and innovative thinking guided the Navy through times of war and significant draw-down at the end of the Cold War. The ability to cut against the grain and find new and creative solutions for the Navy are what set Admiral Kelso apart from his peers. It was his strength of character and sure-fire integrity that ensured his success as a former CNO and to a higher degree solidified the formidable legacy of a great life that Admiral Frank Kelso leaves behind. It was an honor to have served with him and we are a better Navy due to his leadership and faithful commitment to our Sailors, Civilians and their Families," said U.S. Navy Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert.

Kelso eventually returned to live in Fayetteville, Tenn., in 2003, a decade after retiring from the Navy.

He was the third of three submariners in a row who served as CNO in in the 1980s and '90s. As CNO he led the Navy in a period of significant drawdown of U.S. naval forces in the wake of the end of the Cold War and the ballyhooed "peace dividend." Concurrently, he oversaw the introduction of new platforms and systems that improved capabilities, including precision strike operations. The nation persistently called on the naval capabilities throughout his tour, starting with Operation Desert Storm.

As CNO, he also oversaw revolutionary changes within the OPNAV staff and profoundly changed the means by which the Navy processed and made decisions. In keeping with joint staff practices, he changed "OP" codes to "N" codes, and the staff was reorganized to align with a "Napoleonic" arrangement used by both the Army and the Joint

Staff. In a period of dramatic change, he helped to transform not merely the organization, but also the processes by which information could be shared and considered. He is credited with dramatically changing the means by which more informed decisions could be made by the Navy.

Kelso was a strong advocate for the integration of women, particularly in the wake of the 1991 Tailhook Convention during which numerous incidents of sexual assault and harassment were found to have occurred.

During his tour as Commander of the Navy's Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea, members of the Palestine Liberation Front hijacked the cruise ship Achille Lauro and had killed a disabled passenger. When their demands were not met, they negotiated safe refuge and were flown towards Tunisia aboard an Egyptian commercial airliner. The plane was intercepted by U.S. Navy F-14 Tomcats and forced to land in Sigonella, Sicily, where the hijackers were arrested and later tried for murder.

In March of 1986 the U.S. initiated a series of 'Freedom of Navigation' exercises in the Gulf of Sidra that challenged Libyan leader's Col. Muammar al-Qadhafi "line of death" that spanned the Gulf of Sidra. Then Vice Admiral Kelso deployed elements of Task Force 60 including America (CV 66), Coral Sea (CV 43), and Saratoga (CV 60) with upward of 250 aircraft and 26 ships and submarines across the line and triggered Libyan action. Ultimately naval aircraft completed 1,546 sorties in support of the successful operation.

Then in April of that year, following additional terrorist attacks sponsored by al-Qadhafi, the U.S. launched Operation El Dorado Canyon-attacks against Libyan military targets. Under Kelso, U.S. aircraft attacked three target areas near Tripoli. Jets also bombed the al-Jamahiriyyah barracks and Benina Airfield, both near Benghazi.

Kelso got his start in public school and the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn., prior to entering the U.S. Naval Academy in 1952. Following graduation in 1956, he served in the cargo ship USS Oglethorpe (AKA 100) before attending Submarine School in 1958. On completion of training, he was assigned to the submarine USS Sabalo (SS 302) before returning to Submarine School for nuclear power training in January 1960. He then served one year in the Nuclear Power Department at the school. Subsequent tours included the pre-commissioning crew of the nuclear-powered attack submarine USS Pollack (SSN 603), Engineering Officer aboard USS Daniel Webster (SSBN 626) and Executive Officer of USS Sculpin (SSN 590).

From January 1969 to August 1971, Kelso served as Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Nuclear Power School in Bainbridge, Md. Following tours included Commanding Officer, USS Finback (SSN 670); Staff of Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; and Commanding Officer, USS Bluefish (SSN 675). Admiral Kelso was then assigned as Executive Assistant to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Command and U.S. Atlantic Fleet and Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic from September 1975 to July 1977.

He served as Commander, Submarine Squadron SEVEN until reporting as Division Director, Submarine Distribution Division in the Naval Military Personnel Command, and Section Head of the Submarine Programs Section in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower, Personnel and Training) in September 1978.

He was selected for promotion to the rank of rear admiral in February 1980.

Upon selection for flag rank, Admiral Kelso served as Director, Strategic Submarine Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, and then was assigned as Director, Office of Program Appraisal, Office of the Secretary of the Navy. On February 8, 1985, Admiral Kelso became Commander Sixth Fleet and NATO Commander Naval Striking Force and Support Forces Southern Europe. On June 30, 1986, Admiral Kelso was promoted to admiral and assumed the duties of Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Admiral Kelso became Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic and Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Command on November 22, 1988. He became the Navy's 24th Chief of Naval Operations on June 29, 1990.

Admiral Kelso has been awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal (three awards), Legion of Merit (four awards), Meritorious Service, Navy Commendation and Navy Achievement Medals.

He is survived by his second wife, Georgeanna, his four children and numerous grandchildren. Landess McCown, his first wife of 56 years, passed away in 2012.

Kelso, who would have been 80 on July 11, 2013, will be buried in Fayetteville in the historic Rose Hill Cemetery on Saturday.

Navies use undersea drone as sub warfare training target
Keith Barry, Wired.co.uk, June 25

Saab — yes, Saab — has built an amphibious drone meant to keep submarine crews on their toes. The Saab AUV62 is a highly sophisticated autonomous underwater vehicle that mimics a submarine, allowing navies to train for anti-submarine warfare as realistically as possible without blowing up expensive submarines.

Though it's an unmanned vehicle, the AUV62's unique acoustic payload means it will show up on sonar screens as an enemy sub. It's essentially the underwater equivalent of skeet shooting, except with torpedoes.

According to Saab, the battery-powered AUV62 can either be preprogrammed to follow a particular underwater route, using collision detection to avoid other vessels, or a remote operator can control it using either a radio or acoustic link. It can travel at speeds as fast as 20 knots, and it can descend to more than 1,640 feet below the surface. It's possible to launch the AUV62 from the shore, from a submarine, or from a ship — as shown above.

Though several military customers have already ordered AUV62s for anti-submarine target practice, the undersea Saab has abilities other than getting blasted out of the water during training missions. Depending on how it's configured, it can be used for minesweeping and reconnaissance. The Swedish military has already deployed the AUV62 for such purposes.

Fans of the SPG and 9-3 Viggen who panicked at the sight of “Saab” and “torpedo” in the same sentence need not worry: Nobody went all Vampire Weekend on a classic 900. Saab's automotive division split from Saab Group in 1990, and the company's defense and aircraft businesses are still going strong.

Groton Hopes Submarine Ties Can Boost its Brand
Deborah Straszheim, TheDay.com, June 23

Groton – Groton wants to strengthen its brand as the “Submarine Capital of the World” in an effort to increase the town's recognition, improve its image among military families and set it apart from other eastern Connecticut towns.

Town Mayor Heather Bond Somers said that when she travels and introduces herself, people ask, “What do they do in Groton?”

She said she tells them: “We make submarines.”

Then she said eyebrows raise, and people comment, “Really?”

Somers said the only indicator that submarines are built here is a sign that reads “Groton - Submarine Capital of the World” on Interstate 95. The name is also noted at military ceremonies.

Groton first earned the title during World War II after Electric Boat delivered 74 diesel submarines to the Navy, according to the town website. In 1954, it launched the USS Nautilus, the first nuclear-powered submarine.

The Town Council voted June 4 to place the words “Submarine Capital of the World” at the bottom of every piece of mail sent from town. Departments now use different letterheads, logos and font styles.

Somers announced the effort, which includes the formation of a committee, last week during a business luncheon on the state of Groton and Ledyard.

Betsy Gibson, chairwoman of the ad hoc committee, said the message about Groton's shipbuilding also could remind people that while Pfizer is downsizing, the town retains thousands of talented, bright people.

She said “everybody got carried away” when Pfizer announced in March that it would raze its original local research and development headquarters on Eastern Point Road.

“We really are bigger than that,” she said.

Gibson, a real estate agent, said the committee was formed partly because some military families have expressed that the town isn't as friendly as they'd like. Gibson, a former town councilor and state representative, said she wants to change that.

“I had some military families say to me, ‘Well, I really don't want to live in Groton because Groton isn't welcoming to military families,’ which is not so,” Gibson said.

She said the group hopes to give military families more information about public schools, recreation programs and town and city government. She also said the committee wants to send a “welcome letter” to arriving military families, and to link the Navy's welcome page to the Groton town website and “Discover Magazine,” which lists recreation programs.

Gibson said the committee, which is still adding members, hopes to report to the council in about a month.

The ad hoc task force so far includes Gibson; Jim Streeter, a Groton town councilor; Matthew Morton, a retired police officer; Matt Longino, owner of the Galaxy Roller Rink in Groton; and a young sailor who is awaiting Navy approval to join. The group also is reaching out to Robert Ross, executive director of the state Office of Military Affairs, and Robert Hamilton, spokesman for Electric Boat.

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY

