

American Submariners Inc  
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## THE SILENT SENTINEL



### AUGUST 2010

#### 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 towards greater accomplishment and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution



MICHAEL  
MALONE  
JOINS THE  
RANKS OF  
THE  
HOLLAND  
CLUB



*U.S. Submarine Veterans  
San Diego Base*

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**Our monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at:**

**The VFW Post 3787—4370 Twain Avenue, San Diego, CA**

**NEXT MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 10 August 2010 - 1900 (7:00pm)**

**E-Board at 1800 (6:00pm)**

## **Submarine Losses for the Month of July**



U.S. Navy Official Photo

### **USS S-28 (SS-133)**

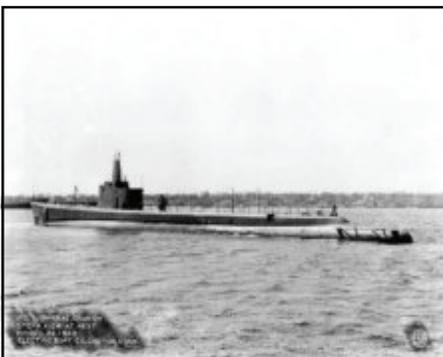
Lost on July 4, 1944 with the loss of 50 Crew members, She was conducting training exercises off Hawaii with the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Reliance. After S-28 dove for a practice torpedo approach, Reliance lost contact. No distress signal or explosion was heard. Two day later an oil slick was found near where S-28 dove. The exact cause of her loss remains a mystery



U.S. Navy Official Photo

### **USS ROBALO (SS-273)**

Lost on July 26, 1944 with the loss of 84 crew members while on her 3rd War Patrol. She struck a mine about 2 miles off the coast of Palawan. Three men survived and swam ashore and were imprisoned by the Japanese. Unfortunately they were put on a Japanese destroyer and were lost when



U.S. Navy Official Photo

### **USS GRUNION (SS216)**

Lost on July 30, 1942 with the loss of 70 crew members while on her 1st War Patrol near Kiska Harbor, Alaska. She radioed that she sank tow sub-chasers and damaged a third but was never heard from again. Her loss remains a mystery.

## The Silent Sentinel via Email

To all of my shipmates and families who currently receive of 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 you will help cut the cost of printing and mailing. 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 to 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Would Like the SILENT SENTINEL emailed:** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Robert Bissonnette**  
1525 Walbollen St  
Spring Valley, CA 91977-3748

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

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**SUBVETS BREAKFAST AT VFW POST 3787**

**SUNDAY - AUGUST 29TH, 2010**

**SUNDAY – OCTOBER 31ST, 2010**

**SAN DIEGO VETERANS DAY PARADE**

**THURSDAY – NOVEMBER 11TH, 2010**

**CAST YOUR VOTE FOR NATIONAL OFFICERS**  
**See the Latest American Submariner or vote online at:**  
**[www.ussvi.org/](http://www.ussvi.org/)**

## *Commanders Corner*

### *AUGUST 2010*

Hello Shipmates!!!!!!! Hope everyone who could come to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint SUBVETs picnic had a great time. There was lots of food, drinks, and fun in the park (not so much sun that day)!! Thanks to the 3 USSVI Bases and the San Diego Chapter WWII SUBVETs we had another successful picnic!! Hope to see everyone next year. I would like to Thanks the Bases and the WWII Chapter for their donation to make the picnic a fun filled and enjoyable day. Thanks to everyone who helped in the cooking, running the games, taking the pictures, and guiding the folks to the tour meeting spot. A Hugh thanks to CSS-11 Commodore and his PAO staff (MC2 Warner) for arranging the 2 boat tours for our group. And a very Special Thanks to the crew of the USS Jefferson City for hoisting the tours.

Our next big event for us is the voting of new USSVI National Officers and the proposed changes to the bylaws and constitution. Believe it or not, the membership is responsible for voting for the best person for the job that will do their best for US, the membership and organization!! It is up to you to make this happen. We, the San Diego Base, are the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest base for USSVI and we should be setting the course for who we think will do the best for the organization & the membership. And if the changes are for the good and will better our organization then vote that way. But if not, vote against the change or changes and add your 2 cents to help make it right!! Ok I will get off my soap box on the voting. Whichever way you're going to vote, please vote soon.

We have the National Convention around the corner and a few breakfasts too. Still working on getting another Mess Cook Class (Food Handling Class) together, and as soon as I get the word I will get it out to everyone. I will be at the Convention from Tuesday night (late) until early Sunday morning. I will be talking to Eboard about having the Sept Meeting. If will be just after the convention and everything will still be fresh in my head about what happened there!! I will get the word out either way if we are going to have a Sept meeting or not.

I hope everyone is having a fun and safe summer. See you all at the next meeting.

Sincerely,  
Bob Bissonette  
Base Commander, USSVI San Diego Base

## **San Diego Submarine Veterans meeting, for July 13, 2010.**

1900- Meeting called to order by Base Commander, Bob Bissonnette.

Conducted opening exercises:

Reading of the Creed:

Pledge of Allegiance lead by, Jim Bilka

Chaplin's prayer:

Tolling of the boats lost in July:

USS S-28 (SS133) JULY 4, 1944

USS ROBALO (SS273) JULY 26, 1944

USS GRUNION (SS216) JULY 30, 1942

All hands please observe a moment of silence.

Secretary report: 39 Members and guest present.

Treasurer's report: Report has been posted on Sentinel

E board members present: VIPs and former commanders recognized.

Call for committee reports:

Binnacle List: CJ Glassford in hospital tonight, Chuck George, and Phill has a couple of broken ribs.

Parade committee, 24 folks attended. Next parade is in San Diego.

Membership: 340 members, more members need to vote for National Officers because we are one of the largest Bases. Please vote online when you can.

A member suggested using a phone list, BC stated we use email ect, But if members would be willing to make phone calls, however we can call only the primary members and call only in local area. This will be for voting only. We are getting a phone tree for primary members only.

Scholarship fund: We have two candidates and one will be at picnic the other is out of town.

Storekeepers report: T-Shirts may be available. If we buy in bulk they will be about 15 dollars each. Also we have calendars available for 6.00 ea. Also we have license plate covers we have 4 available. These are from New London they may not be caring the plate covers at the Sub Base any longer.

Breakfast: The next breakfast is 29 Aug at 0800. The price is 6.00 and we need volunteers to help serve. We will attempt to get a food handlers class set up.

Mike Malone , was present to receive The Holland Club membership certificate, dated Jan 3 2010. Other member not present are Chester Huffman, Leo Stiles and Rufus G. Reaves.

1922 – 50/50 break.....

1937 – Meeting called to order by the Base commander.

Unfinished business: Three bases are going together for our annual picnic. We will provide food but you can bring chips ect. We are having tours set up at 1000 and 1300.

The front gate will be open if you don't have a base sticker you can use email with notice or base ID card. We will provide gate guards with flyers to allow entrance.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

**(Minutes Continued from Page 6)**

We still need some folks to volunteer to run games.

Convention raffle tickets are available for 10.00.

The base will keep 5.00 and rest goes to the Convention fund. This is a fund raiser for our base

Remember to vote for national members, please vote for a candidate.

Mike Bircumshaw who is running for Western Regional was asked to say a few words.

Rocky Rocker who is running for Western District 6 was asked to say a few words.

No new Business:

Good of the order:

There are some materials and calendars on the back table available for you.

Tom passed a cup around from the USS PAMPANITO that might be good for our base to sell in the ships store.

Check the web site for new links for a virtual tour of the USS PAMPANITO.

2008 – Meeting adjourned.

**SAILING LIST**

FRED FOMBY	BILL EARL	JOEL ELKAM
TOM POLEN	DAVID KAUPPNER	GLENN GERBRAND
ED WELCH	JOE ACAY	BEN ROLLIN
JIM HARER	MANNY BURCIAGA	JACK L ADDINGTON
JIM BILKA	DAVID BALL	LIN SCHIMA
BOB BISSONNETTE	PAUL HITCHCOCK	ROBER CHAPMAN
PHILL RICHESON	ROY BANNACH	ROCKY ROCKER
BOB FARRELL	BOB COATES	MIKE MAREN
JACK KANE	DONALD WALBAUM	MICHAEL BIRCUMSHAW
MERT WELTZIEN	RON GORENCE	MATT BAUMANN
CHARLIE MARIN	ED FARLEY	MIKE HYMAN
TOM WARNER	ROBERT WIELAGE	RUSS FILBECK
TED VOGT	DENNIS MCCREIGHT	MIKE MALONE

**BINNACLE LIST**

As you may have noticed this month's Sentinel has a rough edge to it. Due to Mike Hyman's sudden illness and subsequent hospitalization I have attempted to put together this newsletter in his absence. Any short-comings in the final product are not a reflection on Mike's teaching ability, but rather on my capacity to learn and apply what he showed me. Please join me in wishing Mike a speedy recovery.

Jack Kane - Assistant Editor  
619-602-1801 - jkane32@cox.net



## Picnic at Point Loma 18 July 2010





## **Submarine Squadron Eleven Holds Change of Command**

*From: Submarine Squadron 11 Public Affairs, July 24, 2010*

NAVAL BASE POINT LOMA, Calif. (July 24, 2010) – Capt. Richard Correll relieved Capt. Brett Genoble as Commander, Submarine Squadron Eleven and Commander, Submarine Forces U. S. Pacific Fleet Representative West Coast today during a pier side ceremony held aboard the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Albuquerque (SSN 706).

“I look forward to serving with you,” said Correll, “and to supporting the submarine crews, who do our Navy and Nation’s business day-in and day-out.”

While under Genoble’s command, Squadron Eleven oversaw submarines deployed to the Arabian Gulf, Western Pacific and the Arctic. Genoble also oversaw successful home port changes for USS San Francisco (SSN 711), USS Albuquerque and USS Helena (SSN 725).

Correll thanked Genoble for his thorough turnover and commended his successful command tour.

“Congratulations on a superb tour as Squadron Eleven’s Commodore and best luck to you on your following assignment,” said Correll.

Genoble’s next assignment is as executive assistant to the Chief of Naval Personnel, in Washington D.C.

Correll entered the submarine force in May 1988 with early sea tours aboard USS Henry M. Jackson (SSBN 730), USS Hyman G. Rickover (SSN 709) and USS Buffalo (SSN 715). He reported as Commanding Officer of USS Topeka (SSN 754) in May 2003 where he completed two Western Pacific deployments and earned two Battle Efficiency “E” awards. He later served as the special assistant to the Director for Policy, Training, and Personnel at Naval Reactors. Most recently, he served on the Office of the Secretary of Defense policy staff as a military assistant for the Office of Strategy Plans and Forces and later for the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

## **USS Tucson Participates in International Exercise**

*Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Adam K. Thomas*

*EAST SEA (July 26, 2010) U.S. Navy and Republic of Korea ships transit the East Sea in a 13-ship formation led by the Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770). The Republic of Korea and the United States are conducting the combined alliance maritime and air readiness exercise "Invincible Spirit" in the seas east of the Korean peninsula from July 25-28, 2010. This is the first in a series*



## **Sailors Participate in Cheyenne Frontier Days**

*By John M. Lewis, Navy News, 27 July 2010*

CHEYENNE, Wyo. -- Sailors from USS Cheyenne (SSN-773) and USS Wyoming (SSBN-742), personnel from Navy Operational Support Center Cheyenne and area recruiters are taking part in a variety of activities during the annual Cheyenne Frontier Days July 26-Aug. 1.

Crew members from Cheyenne and Wyoming have participated in Cheyenne Frontier Days for many years. During the weeklong event Sailors are able to meet the governor of Wyoming and mayor of Cheyenne, and participate in community outreach events at a Boys and Girls Club and Department of Veterans Affairs hospital.

Sailors also have the opportunity to walk in the Grand Parades in downtown Cheyenne.

"It was great to see everyone come their feet when we walked by," said Wyoming Commanding Officer Cmdr. Bill McKinney. "This welcoming by this community has been great and it reminds us of why we serve."

Highlights for some Sailors includes a lunch and behind-the-scenes tour of a rodeo, a history of Cheyenne Frontier Days. They will also have the opportunity to watch a rodeo from four different locations.

Later this week Sailors will attend and participate in the Challenge Rodeo. The event pairs special-needs children with the PRCA rodeo contestants in a modified rodeo performance.

Crew members from Cheyenne and Wyoming are selected for this trip based on their performance. Sailors are required to pay their own way to get to Cheyenne. Many families in the Cheyenne area open up their homes to the Sailors and give them a place to stay while here.

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## **New Sonar Designed to Close Technology Gap**

*By Jennifer McDermott, The Day, 29 July 2010*

Mystic - The deadly sinking of a South Korean warship in March made it clear that today's surface ships need a better way to find the diesel-electric submarines being built by potential adversaries.

North Korea still denies any involvement in the incident. But a team of international investigators concluded that it was a North Korean submarine that fired the torpedo that sank the Cheonan in March, killing 46 South Korean sailors.

"The Cheonan was a sitting duck," said U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, D-2nd District. "Even low-cost submarines by a country that is not a superpower, like North Korea, can do great damage to surface ships because there's a gap in sonar technology."

Alion Science and Technology is attempting to close that gap by developing an improved detection system based on Continuous Active Sonar technology. Courtney recently toured Alion's Mystic office.

More than 40 countries operate 600 submarines, including diesel-electric or conventionally powered submarines that are becoming increasingly quiet and more difficult to detect.

China is thought to have 70 submarines either in service or under construction. In 2006, a Chinese submarine came close to the USS Kitty Hawk carrier group without being detected until it surfaced within firing range of the group in the Pacific Ocean.

Conventional sonar on U.S. surface ships, which has been around for decades, transmits a pulsed signal through the water. Sonar operators listen for the echo to return, and the signal is sent out again.

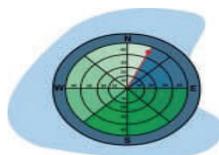
Using Continuous Active Sonar, or CAS, the signal is transmitted constantly and operators listen simultaneously for potential submarine sounds. This technology will enable surface ships to detect submarines quicker, and from a farther distance.

"It's a game-changer in anti-submarine warfare," said JJ Waickwicz, Alion's design, engineering and technology group manager and a retired Navy rear admiral. "It's a leap in technology and in the ability to locate and track submarines."

The country's anti-submarine warfare capabilities have "atrophied," Waickwicz said. There was no longer a perceived undersea threat after the fall of the Soviet Union, and the funding for research and development in this area diminished accordingly.

"We're going to shore that up," Waickwicz said, referring to the acoustic capabilities. "We will become the hunter instead of the hunted."

Alion received \$15 million in 2007 to demonstrate and evaluate the sonar technology. The company expects a follow-on contract from the Navy in fiscal 2011. Twenty people, out of the 80 who work at the Mystic site, are involved with the project as part of a Navy team that also includes university and Navy laboratories. (continued on Page 13)





## **New Sonar Designed to Close Technology Gap (continued from page 12)**

The Navy's Program Executive Office for Integrated Warfare Systems evaluated the concept of using CAS for anti-submarine warfare on surface combatants.

The technology has proven its capabilities and will be incorporated into future combat systems for anti-submarine warfare starting in fiscal 2012, according to a statement from that office.

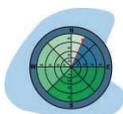
CAS is possible now because of advances in electronics and computer technology, said Kevin Richards, who manages the group of engineers working on it. It can use a smaller transmitter to fit on a variety of ships, including destroyers and littoral combat ships. Surface ships have been the focus for this technology. Submarines often rely on a different form of sonar.

CAS could eventually be adapted to find torpedoes in the water.

"The technology could be used to detect an incoming weapon versus the other way you usually find out," Richards said. "But it would need to be applied to that problem. Torpedoes are much smaller and faster and the timeline is pretty short. The idea is to come up with a system that could be put on a surface combatant to alert them in timely way."

There has been a "heightened interest" in the company's work on torpedo defense since the sinking of the Cheonan in March, Richards said, and some of the nation's allies have expressed an interest in using CAS.

Environmental groups have voiced concerns over the potential effects of active sonar on marine mammals. Richards said that while the issue needs further study, Alion's system may mitigate some of those concerns.



## **USS Michigan Leads the Way by Kicking the Habit Early**

*By Gary Heppen, Navy News, 28 July 2010*

USS MICHIGAN, At Sea -- In preparation for the upcoming Submarine Force smoking ban beginning Dec. 31, USS Michigan (SSGN 727) (Blue) put the smoking lamp out almost six months early, July 27, at exactly 7:27 a.m.

The date and time was chosen in honor of the ship's hull number. July 27, is known as Tuebor Day on board the Mighty Michigan, currently on her second SSGN deployment to the Western Pacific. Tuebor is Latin for 'I will defend,' and appears on both the ship's crest and the state of Michigan seal.

The crew has been preparing for this major change to shipboard life. Of the 54 smokers on board, 18 personnel enrolled in a Tobacco Cessation Program (TCP) run by the ship's independent duty corpsman, Chief Hospital Corpsman Robert Ripps.

Ripps said that the program consisted of weekly meetings and nicotine replacement therapy and was successful for 17 of the smokers enrolled.

"The TCP helped me to get over the hump of needing a routine after-watch cigarette," said Sonar Technician 2nd Class Joseph Camerlin, a smoker of 12 years. "I feel really good about not smoking. I haven't had a cigarette in over a month."

The crew supports starting the smoking ban nearly six months before the rest of the submarine fleet.

"Like everything else, we are ahead of the curve. What better day than 727 day, personally, I think it was a great choice, especially since it is my 32nd birthday," said Camerlin.

Chief Machinist's Mate Timothy Flansaas, Machinery division leading chief petty officer, is one of the 36 smokers who did not enroll in the TCP. He successfully quit 'cold turkey' on his own, and hasn't smoked since the ban was first announced.

Flansaas said he had to wrap his mind around the fact that he really didn't want to smoke anymore. "I calculated how much money the next cigarette pack would cost me," said Flansaas.

Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Adam Vogel noticed that quitting smoking has increased his lung capacity and allowed him to run farther during his workout. To help encourage working out as an available stress relief instead of smoking, fitness options on board have improved, including an upgraded flat screen television under the Missile Compartment Logistics and Escape Trunk, so Sailors can work out using video-based fitness programs.

"As a former smoker for more than 10 years, I understand the challenges of quitting smoking. It is extremely hard to stop when you are at sea. We want our Sailors to be successful, so we decided to put the smoking lamp out during this mission cycle," said Command Master Chief Victor Smith. By putting the smoking lamp out at the now, toward the end of the mission cycle, the command's plan is for the Sailors to quit on board the boat, and then go into the homeport training period with a fresh start and plenty of support from their family and friends, said Smith.

"The day we extinguish the smoking lamp on board is a significant event in the lives of our Sailors. I cannot think of a more appropriate day to start a new and healthier life than 727 day," said Smith.



## Japan Increasing Size Of Submarine Fleet

*By Kyle Mizokami, Japan Security Watch, 27 July 2010*

Japan has announced it will increase the size of its submarine fleet, from 18 patrol submarines and two trainers two “more than 20”, according to this article.

Japan is to increase its submarine fleet for the first time in 36 years, the Sankei Shimbun reported Sunday. The plan apparently aims to counter China’s naval build-up by partially filling the void created by the U.S. reduction of submarines in the Pacific area.

The paper said the Japanese government plans to increase the number of submarines from the current 18 including two trainer submarines to more than 20 when it revises its Defense Program Guidelines by year’s end.

Tokyo has maintained 18 submarines since it first formulated the guidelines in 1976, although it has strengthened their capability by replacing superannuated vessels and with new ones. (Link)

The article has a picture of a Soryu-class diesel electric submarine. At 4,200 tons, Soryu-class is one of the largest classes of submarines Japan has ever operated—only the World War II-era aircraft-carrying I-400 class submarines were larger.

The Soryu-class is an improved version of the Oyashio-class submarines which were commissioned in the late 1990s through 2008. Soryu boats differ in having an X-shaped tail plane configuration and an Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system. Soryu boats are larger, but only by 200 tons.

Japan tends to keep submarines in service for twenty years or less:

(in chronological order:)

Asashio class: average 17 years in commission

Uzushio class: average 16 years in commission

Yushio class: average 16 years in commission

Harushio: 5 still in service (+2 converted to trainers) oldest is 20 years old

Oyashio class: 11 in service, oldest is 12 years old

Soryu class: 2 in service +4 under construction

These figures, drawn from Wikipedia, give Japan 18 active duty patrol submarines and 2 Harushio-class trainers. The Chosun Ilbo article above shorts Japan 2 patrol submarines. It’s possible that, given the fast-paced world of Japanese submarines, the trainers cited in Wikipedia have already been decommissioned and replacements drawn from the 5 Harushio boats listed in service.

Assuming Japan plans to increase its submarine fleet to “more than 20” (let’s call it 21) Japan would have to build another four Soryu boats beyond current plans to replace the Harushios, all of which are getting quite old by Japanese standards. Given the pace of submarine shipbuilding, that should be completed by 2019 or so. That would give Japan 11 Oyashios and 10 Soryus. And in 2019, Japan will want to start retiring the lead Oyashio boats. That must keep Kawasaki and Mitsubishi pretty busy.

Question: if Japan thinks it can get by with such a slight increase in submarines while the Chinese sub building program keeps cranking them out like sausages, does it have some sort of ace in the hole to give Japan a technological lead? The Type 89 torpedo is almost 20 years old. The Harpoon missile is old, slow, and doesn’t pack much of a punch. Curious: can some version of the XASM-3 missile fit in a 533mm torpedo tube?





Fourth Of July



In Julian

# SHIP's STORE INVENTORY CLOSEOUT SALE

2009 San Diego Convention Discontinued Merchandise

Patches - \$2.50



T-Shirts—\$5.00—Various Colors and Sizes



Challenge Coins—\$5.00



## SAN DIEGO BASE MERCHANDISE

Base Patches—\$5.00

