



"To Honor Those Who Serve, Past, Present & Future"

February 2016

Volume 17, Issue 2

**Lest We Forget —
"The USSVI Submariner's Creed"**

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

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News Brief

1. **Next Meeting:** At 1100, third Saturday of each month at the Knollwood Sportsman's Club. Mark your calendars for these upcoming dates:
 - a. FEBRUARY 20
 - b. MARCH 19
 - c. APRIL 16
2. **Duty Cook Roster:**
 - a. FEBRUARY – ED DOWLING
 - b. APRIL -- SEE YOUR NAME HERE!
 - c. MAY – SEE YOUR NAME HERE!
3. **February Birthdays:** Don Robbins 4th; Leon Lemma 6th; Eric Hansknecht 11th; Larry Hecleksmiller 12th; Steve Benicke 12th; and Scott Jaklin 17th. Happy Birthday Shipmates!
4. **Bubblehead Bookshelf** needs a reader. Interested? Contact Chris Gaines.
5. Be sure to Like our Chicago Submarine Memorial **Facebook** page.
6. **Save the Date:** April 30; Candlelight Bowl memorial fundraiser, at Suburbanite Bowl in Westmont, IL. Details to follow.
7. **USSVI National convention** information: <http://www.ussviconvention.org/2016/>

Crash Dive Meeting Minutes January 16, 2015

1. Attendees:
 - a. Clay Hill
 - b. Jan Hill
 - c. Frank Voznak
 - d. Ed Dowling
 - e. Greg Miller
 - f. Maurice Young
 - g. Ray Ratliff
 - h. Brett Zacher
 - i. Dick Anderson
 - j. Frank Walter
 - k. Larry Warnke
 - l. Ron Spooner
 - m. Tom Polzin
 - n. Herman Mueller
 - o. Glenn Barts, Sr.
 - p. Chris Gaines
 - q. Gus Yakes
 - r. Scott Jaklin
2. Meeting was called to order by Clay Hill at 1102 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, invocation, and a round of introductions.
3. Secretary's Report was given by Chris Gaines. Larry Warnke moved to accept; Ray Ratliff seconded; vote was unanimous.
4. Treasurer's Report given by Clay Hill. Savings \$1,173.69; Checking \$1,992.68; Memorial Checking \$37,620.40; Memorial Savings \$5.00; Held by National \$5,240.00. Herman Mueller moved to accept; Dick Anderson seconded; vote was unanimous.
5. Committee Reports
 - a. Newsletter – Revised application form will appear next month.
 - b. Membership – A few shipmates remain unpaid and are delinquent.
 - c. Charitable Service – No news.
 - d. Community Outreach – Anticipate a working party, probably in the aft torpedo room, sometime mid-week in February.
 - e. Hospitality – Looking forward to Wild Game Feed on January 30th, 1800. Tickets available \$15 apiece.
 - f. Webmaster – Always good to check for updates. It serves as another communication channel similar to Facebook.
 - g. Storekeeper – Selling gift baskets as noted in the newsletter.
 - h. Procedures – In progress and will approve SOP-01 through SOP-05 for use at the February memorial committee meeting.
 - i. Eagle Scout – Have done several presentations recently in Huntley and Barrington areas; all were well-received. Ordering new patches in accordance with revised BSA guidance. Two more presentations in Gurnee and Elk Grove Village. Need local shipmates to help; contact Ted if interested.
 - j. Memorial –
 - i. Refer to Web page for status of donations.
 - ii. Candlelight Bowl in Downers Grove April 30 to raise funds; tickets are \$35 for three hours of bowling and a pizza buffet. NEED shipmates to donate items for gift baskets (i.e. store gift cards, tools, trinkets, books, etc.).
 - iii. Frank is pursuing matching donations from Baxalta and Disney.

- iv. Bret suggests refreshing the artwork on our Web presence; Frank will follow-through.
- 6. Old Business
 - a. Herman continues to work linking to the memorial Facebook page.
- 7. New Business
 - a. NEED a reader to help with our bookshelf project.
 - b. Frank Voznak suggested that Charitable Service consider donating to the Arizona Silent Service Memorial. Frank Walter moved to donate \$100 to the AZ Memorial; Tom Polzin seconded; vote was unanimous.
- 8. Good of the Order item:
 - a. Thanks to Larry Warnke and Frank Walter for a fun Chili Dump lunch.
 - b. Duty Cook
 - i. February – Ed Dowling
 - ii. March – NEED volunteer.
 - c. Frank Walter will serve his fish fry at the KSC's Wild Game Feed.
 - d. Next Meeting is February 20, 2016 at KSC.
- 9. Adjourn – Glen Barts moved to adjourn; Frank Walter seconded; Adjourned at 12:13 followed by lunch.

Lost Boats

USS Scorpion (SS-278)	1/5/44
USS Argonaut (SS-166)	1/10/43
USS Swordfish (SS-193)	1/12/45
USS S-36 (SS-141)	1/20/42
USS S-26 (SS-131)	1/24/42

SK Gift Baskets

Submitted by: Herman Mueller

We are introducing 4 gift baskets that are now available for sale at \$20 each. Each basket features an assortment of jewelry and a small box of chocolates. Whether it is a birthday, anniversary, or just saying "I love you!" our Gift Baskets are ready to give, for your shopping convenience.



Order yours by contacting Crash Dive Storekeeper Herman Mueller; his contact information appears on Page 9.

What is Trident? Debate Over The Nation's Nuclear Deterrent (UK)

Alice Foster, Express, Feb 16

What is Trident?

Trident is Britain's only nuclear weapon system and consists of four submarines carrying missiles and warheads.

Controlled by the Royal Navy from a Scottish base, at least one

submarine is always on patrol in a bid to deter nuclear attacks.

Trident is the most powerful but also the most expensive capability in the British military arsenal.

When was Trident created?

In 1980 the Thatcher government announced plans to introduce Trident to replace the UK's previous Polaris missile system.

The development of Trident took place amid heightened tensions during the Cold War. Trident was first brought into use in 1994.

Why does Trident need to be replaced?

The current fleet of submarines is set to reach the end of its working life in the late 2020s.

No decision has been taken on whether to replace Trident, but work has already started on a possible replacement.

The replacement of Trident will cost more than £100 billion, according to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

What are political views on Trident?

The Conservative government supports the renewal of Trident – its replacement was a key part of the party's manifesto.

Prime Minister David Cameron has argued that the UK would be "foolish" to give up its ultimate weapon of defence amid ongoing nuclear threats.

The SNP opposes the renewal of Trident, while the Liberal Democrats argue that it is a relic of the cold war and there are better ways to keep the UK safe.

Does Labour want to replace Trident?

The Labour party is engulfed in a bitter row over the issue and is carrying out a defence review into its policy on Trident.

Jeremy Corbyn opposes Trident and pledged to get rid of nuclear weapons entirely during his Labour leadership campaign last year.

But before his election, Labour had supported the renewal of Trident and saw it as a "cornerstone" of peace and security for Britain.

Australia Submarine Deal: Is America Manipulating?

Staff, Australia Network, Feb 16

Australia's Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has denied reports that the United States is pressuring Australia into buying Japanese submarines. Bishop said she was "amazed" at such reports. The foreign minister's denial comes in the midst of reports that the US is lobbying for Japan.

Bishop's response on submarine deal was reported by Adelaide Now. Australia is in the process of acquiring new submarines to replace its ageing Collins-class boats.

Media reports had suggested Washington's preference for Japan in the Aussie submarine deal. The US reportedly indicated that it would provide the US Navy's most advanced combat systems to Aussie submarines, only if Japan is handling the submarine production.

This is Japan's trump card in the three-way race for the deal. The other two contenders are Germany and France. The estimated cost of the submarine project is more than US\$36 billion (AU\$50 billion).

The US believes that Japan's Soryu submarine would offer the best

interoperability between Australian and American submarines. It would also enhance the “trilateral strategic co-operation” among the US, Japan and Australia.

The Australian reported that the US harbours doubts about Germany’s ability to protect critical defence technology from the industrial espionage of China.

The US reportedly discussed the matter with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull during his US trip in January. It also figured in the PM’s discussions with the US Pacific Commander Admiral Harry Harris and other military figures.

For public consumption, Washington’s official line is that it would respect any decision made by Canberra. But the rider that the decision has a “strategic dimension” is the real code showing its preference for Japan.

An analysis by US think tank, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) also said Australian subs have a “vital capability.” It also said “further delays in decision making” could risk serious gaps in Australian capability. The review noted that China’s massive military expansion and the cuts in the US defence budget are affecting the US capability deployment in the region.

Japan Pushes For Contract To Help Australia Build \$50-Billion Submarine Fleet

Philip Wen, SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, Feb 16

TOKYO – Japan has urged Australia to award a contract to build its new \$50-billion submarine fleet, emphasizing the strategic imperatives of such a deal as both countries seek closer ties amid growing security tensions in the region.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop received the strategic pitch from her Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida during a two-and-half-hour meeting in Tokyo which also canvassed tackling China's increasing assertiveness in the South China Sea, potential sanctions against North Korea, and Australia's opposition to Japan's resumption of whaling in the Southern Ocean.

The fleet would not just amount to a transfer of defense technology and capabilities, Japanese officials say, but lead to greater operational cooperation which would help bolster maritime security in the region – a counterweight to China's efforts to transform its navy into a global maritime power.

The potential co-development of the new submarine fleet, amid the broader deepening of security ties with Japan, is viewed with suspicion by a Chinese government convinced the United States and its allies are intent on containing its rise.

Ms. Bishop, speaking to reporters after her meeting with Mr. Kishida at the official Iikura Guest House, stressed a decision would only be made after a competitive evaluation process, with the winner announced later this year. France and Germany also remain in the running for the order, which will replace Australia's diesel and electric-powered Collins Class submarines.

"I note Japan has emphasized the strategic importance of their bid, but likewise the other two bidders have emphasized what they perceive to be their strengths," Ms. Bishop said on Monday night, the first of a five-day visit to Japan and China.

"What Australia is seeking to do is look at ensuring that the international partner can meet our needs in terms of capability, quality, reach and also the needs of Australian industry."

Foreshadowing the potentially delicate talks awaiting her next leg in Beijing, Ms. Bishop said she discussed with Mr. Kishida ways to ensure China embraces the international rules based order "under which so many countries in this region has prospered" when it came to the South China Sea.

China has ignored calls for it to halt its program of island-building in the South China Sea, which has included the construction of military-grade airstrips and naval berths, citing its right to do so on sovereign territory and that similar reclamation was being carried out by rival claimants Vietnam and the Philippines.

"It's not a question of Japan wanting us to do more, it's about what Australia wants to do and Australia has already made it plain that we will continue to advocate for peaceful resolution over the different claims over the South China Sea," Ms. Bishop said.

On North Korea, Ms. Bishop said China could use its influence as a key trade partner and energy supplier to curb its neighbor's behavior, following separate nuclear and ballistic missile tests in recent weeks.

She said Australia was considering whether to take autonomous sanctions against North Korea, noting Japan this week announced a blanket ban on shipping from the country and barring all North Koreans from entering. South Korea and the United States have also

announced its own measures as the United Nations Security Council debates a resolution to impose sanctions.

"The international community must send a strong message" against North Korea, Mr. Kishida said at the start of Monday's meeting, adding that North Korea's actions pose a "direct and grave" threat to Japan's national security.

Ms. Bishop is scheduled to meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Defense Minister Gen Nakatani on Tuesday.

China Reclaimed Land For South China Sea Anti-Submarine Helicopter Base Near Vietnam

[Sam LaGrone, U.S. NAVAL INSTITUTE NEWS, Feb 15](#)

The People's Liberation Army is building a South China Sea helicopter base that could be a key node in a Chinese anti-submarine warfare (ASW) network across the region, according to new satellite images and analysis shared with USNI News on Friday.

The imagery – first published on news site The Diplomat – show what appears to be extensive reclamation work to build could easily be an ASW helicopter base on Duncan Island, about 200 miles from the coast of Vietnam in the disputed Paracel Islands.

The base "could signal a step-up in China's ASW capabilities across the South China Sea. A network of helicopter bases and refueling stops scattered across the South China Sea, using no more than the bases China is already known to be building, would make almost any coordinate in the sea

reachable,” read the analysis by Victor Robert Lee.

“By hopscotching between bases, the [ASW] helicopter fleet would be unconstrained by fuel range or limited numbers of ship-borne landing berths, creating a continuous and contiguous web of surveillance and response capability.”

The analysis went on to say “such a web would have utility beyond anti-submarine warfare, and would probably reshape surface ship and aerial combat strategies in the region,” Lee wrote.

In reaction to the revelation, Pentagon officials reiterated their call for all South China Sea nations to island reclamation work, in a Sunday statement to USNI News

“The United States continues to call on all claimants to halt land reclamation, construction and militarization of features in the South China Sea,” spokesman Cmdr. Bill Urban told USNI News. “While the United States does not take a position on sovereignty claims to land features, we have growing concerns about China’s pattern of assertive behavior, which creates uncertainties about China’s strategic intentions.”

Naval analyst Eric Wertheim told USNI News last week, if the analysis holds up, it would give the Chinese more military options regionally.

“If it turns out to be true. It’s another example of China excreting its effort to control the South China Sea,” the author of the U.S. Naval Institute’s Combat Fleets of the World said. “From a military perspective it certainly has an impact as these bases can serve as unsinkable aircraft carriers.”

According to Wertheim, the bases could sustain and act as lily pads for the PLAN’s new Changhe Z-18F ASW variant

– based on the French SA 321 Super Frelon heavy lift helicopter – which have a range of 450 nautical miles. The Duncan Island installation would put the helicopters easily in range of Vietnam’s maritime territory.

In September, Pacific Command commander Adm. Harry Harris told the Senate how he viewed the expanded installations across the entire region.

“If you look at all of these facilities – and you could imagine a network of missile sites, runways for their fifth generation fighters and surveillance sites and all that – it creates a mechanism in which China would have de facto control over the South China Sea in any scenario short of war,” Harris said.

“These are obviously easy targets in war, it’s what we call in the military, “grapes” if you will, but short of that, the militarization of these features pose a threat against all other countries in the region.”

News of the base comes as Vietnam is in the midst of modernizing its submarine force to include six Russian-built improved Kilo-class diesel electric attack submarines. The submarines, acquired for the maritime defense of Vietnam’s substantial coastline, are part of a Hanoi naval expansion that would assert Vietnam claims in the region.

The disparity between the Vietnamese Navy and the PLAN and China’s heavily armed coast guard ships, was highlighted in 2014. That May, China sent a \$1 billion offshore oil platform inside Vietnam’s disputed economic exclusion zone (EEZ) and had ringed it with ships to prevent challenges. If China, for example, made a similar attempt in the future, it could make it riskier for Vietnam’s reconstituted

submarine force to intercede with closer ASW helicopters.

While the reclamation work in the Paracels – where last month the U.S. sent the guided missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG-54) on a freedom of navigation operation – is not as controversial as the ongoing work the Chinese have done to build artificial islands in the Spratly Islands near the Philippines.

In the last two years China has turned low tide elevations into military-style installations – though China insists they aren't for military use.

The Chinese controlled territories in the Paracels – on the other hand – are recognized land features that China has controlled since the mid-1970s while Vietnam and Taiwan also have claims.

In addition expanding the territory on Duncan Island by more than 50 percent in the last year, China has also expanded its Paracel holdings at its airbase at Woody Island, North Island and Tree Island.

“The recent developments at Tree, North, and Duncan islands indicate that Beijing is augmenting its position in the Paracels, which have been overshadowed of late by China’s epic construction projects in the Spratlys,” Lee wrote. The changes in progress will in the Paracels “probably reshape surface ship and aerial combat strategies in the region.”

Fun with Words

- Haunted French pancakes give me the crêpes.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.

Beijing Urges Canberra Not To Buy Japanese Submarines (China/Japan)

Staff, Straight Times, Feb

China yesterday explicitly urged Australia not to purchase a new fleet of submarines worth about A\$50 billion (S\$50 billion) from Japan, saying Canberra should remember World War II and consider "the feelings of Asian countries".

The public intervention by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi into Australia's maritime security plans came as the United States has reportedly favoured Canberra buying the fleet of up to 12 submarines from Japan. The other main contenders are Germany and France.

Speaking to reporters during a visit to Beijing by Australia's Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, Mr Wang said Canberra should not encourage any moves by Tokyo to reinterpret its pacifist Constitution.

"We hope that in military cooperation with Japan, Australia will take into full account this historical context and take into consideration also the feelings of Asian countries because of that history," Mr Wang said. "We hope that Australia will take concrete actions to support the peaceful development of Japan and Japan's efforts to uphold its pacifist Constitution and not the opposite."

In response, Ms Bishop said Australia was conducting a "comprehensive evaluation process" driven by technological and capability requirements.

The highly anticipated submarine deal - set to be one of the world's biggest defence contracts - has increasingly embroiled Canberra in a regional contest for influence.

A final decision is expected later this year when the federal Government releases its long-term defence blueprint.

Japan and France are believed to be the front runners, but Tokyo is

favoured by some because it would have strategic benefits, including bolstering defence ties between Australia and Japan.

During a visit to Tokyo this week, Ms Bishop said: "We want to ensure that our new submarine fleet is able to provide the most high-quality, capable fleet that we're able to purchase."

Mr Andrew Shearer, a national security adviser to former Australian prime minister Tony Abbott, said in an article co-written with Dr Michael Green, from the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, that Washington had "been careful not to take sides" in the decision.

But they suggested US officials would prefer that Australia opted for Japan's bid, which involves a version of its 4,000-ton Soryu-class submarines.

"Senior US officials and military officers are in no doubt both as to the superior capability of the Japanese Soryu class and to the long-term strategic benefits to the United States and the region of an interoperable fleet of

Australian and Japanese conventional submarines equipped with US combat systems," they wrote in The National Interest last month. "Particularly in an increasingly contested maritime environment in which undersea warfare will be critical."

Australia and China have expanded military exchanges and cooperation in recent years, but Canberra has also criticised Beijing's territorial assertiveness in the South China Sea.

Asked whether the US wanted Australia to choose Japan, Ms Bishop said earlier this week: "The US has said publicly that it recognises Australia's sovereign right to determine the outcome of the competitive evaluation process."

Mr Wang was asked yesterday whether he saw any move by Australia to shore up military ties with Japan as an effort to contain China's rise.

"I actually don't think any country or force in the world can stop that rise," he responded.

Crash Dive Base Contact Information

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular Life Associate

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

With my signature below I affirm that I subscribe to the Creed of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and agree to abide by the Constitution, all Bylaws, Regulations and Procedures governing the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., so long as they do not conflict with my military or civil obligations. I will furnish proof of my eligibility for Regular membership, including my discharge under honorable conditions, and proof of my U.S. Navy (SS) Designation, if required by the Base or the national Membership Chairman. If I am not discharged, the discharge requirement is waived. If I am not U.S. N. submarine qualified, I am applying as an Associate and my sponsor is indicated below.

- I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard _____ in _____ (Yr)
(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)
- I certify that I received a discharge under Honorable Conditions (if not currently in military service) in _____ (Yr)

Name: (Print /Type) _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ - _____ Tel: (_____) _____ - _____

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Your E-Mail Address _____ Base/Chapter Desired: _____

The Member Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. Please indicate your term preference: _____
 Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$115.00; 3 Yr term: \$70.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$25.00; (Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$30.00;
 Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$200; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00;
 Local Base/chapter dues are separate and additional. Crash Dive Base dues are \$15 annually.

How did you find USSVI? Friend, Boat Assn, Local Event/News, Internet, Other (_____)

YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Date Of Birth (MM/DD/YY) ____/____/____ If other military service, What Branch? _____

Highest Rate & Rank Attained: _____ Mil Retired (Y/N): _____ On Active Duty? (Y/N): _____

YR entered Mil Service: _____ YR left Mil Service _____ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts.)

Check here if your Military Service falls within these time periods: Dec 7, 1941, thru Dec 31, 1946; June 27, 1950, thru Jan 31, 1955; Aug 5, 1964, thru May 7, 1975; and Aug 2, 1990 to date.

Check here if you have been awarded an Expeditionary Medal

Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company (Use back if you need more space.)

1. _____ Hull# _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
2. _____ Hull# _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
3. _____ Hull# _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
4. _____ Hull# _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
5. _____ Hull# _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____

Next of Kin: Name: _____ Relationship: _____ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Dau, Parent, Other)

Addr: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Tel: _____

(Leave this address line blank if the same as your home address)

Upon completion, give this form, including your National and Base membership DUES to the appropriate base officer, or mail to: Crash Dive Membership Chairman Tom Polzin, 12463 Foxtail Ln, Huntley, IL 60142; Cell 847/867-8668 Fax 847/669-2444