



Newsletter Date April 2004 Volume 1, Issue 1

1MC April Newsletter USSVI Marblehead Base

USSVI (978) 922-5439

Lost Boats April:

USS PICKEREL	(SS-177)	4-03-42
USS GUDGEON	(SS-211)	4-05-43
USS SNOOK	(SS--279)	4-12-20
USS THRESHER	(SSN-593)	4-15-43
USS GRENADIER	(SS-210)	4-20-45

"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 Government."



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Secretary's Report March 2004

**UNITED STATES SUBMARINE
VETERANS INC.
MARBLEHEAD BASE
SECRETARY'S REPORT
March 1, 2004**

Call to Order

Commander Don Femino called the regular monthly meeting to order at 1931 hrs. He began the meeting with the reading of the Creed. The ship's bell was tolled for the lost boats in February. After the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance, the 38 shipmates present sounded off with their names and their qual boats.

Reports

The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Base Financial report was read by Commander Femino in absence of the Treasurer and was accepted.

Old Business

USS Carbonero notice - Anyone who served on the USS Carbonero from May-June 1965, August-September 1966, or April-May 1968 should visit their local VA center to be evaluated for environmental agents.
D1 Candidates - Outgoing D1 Commander Paul Orstad is still looking for successors, even to the point of naming names of possible candidates from Marblehead Base.
SubVets WWII Bay State East Chapter Meeting - Nantucket Island March 20 and 21. Several Marblehead Base members are planning to attend.
Thresher Memorial - April 17 Thresher Base needs to know who is attending before the ceremony to allow access to the shipyard. There will be sign up sheets at the next

base meeting.

Sub Vets 40th Anniversary Weekend - April 30 and May 1 in Groton, CT - There is a charity golf tournament planned. Also a Sub School graduation and tour of the Sub Base are scheduled. Boat tours are scheduled for May 1. A dinner dance concludes the weekend's activities at the Port and Starboard Club at Ocean Beach, New London. Registration forms are available online at the USSVI web site.
District 1 Meeting - May 15 Maine Base is hosting this year in Augusta, Maine.

New Business

A proposal to put an advertisement in local papers for our base was made by Commander Femino. There was a question of cost for the ad. The E Board will investigate costs for ads.

For The Good of The Order

Sweatshirt Sale - Taking orders for new sweatshirts. Nice quality in 3 colors - Grey, navy and black with Marblehead Base and dolphins on front.

Adjourn

Corning Pevear gave the benediction and the meeting adjourned at 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Shannon
Base Secretary

Base Officers 2002

Commander Don Femino
USS Pickerel (SS-524) 1960
46 Pierson Street
Beverly, MA 01915
(978) 922-5439
Femino@rcn.com

Vice Commander Stan Dixon
USS Grenadier (SS-525) 1958
16 South Pond Street
Newburyport, MA 01950
(978) 465-3948
NESVFL@aol.com

Secretary Tom Shannon
USS TREPANG (SSN-674) 1983
15 Jackson Road
Burlington, MA 01803
(781) 229-2254
trshannon674@hotmail.com

Treasurer George LeBlanc
USS BANG (SS-385) 1968
17 Mello Parkway
Danvers, MA 01923
(978) 774-4027

Store Keeper Dana Sweeter
USS Thomas Edison (SSBN610)
60 Burley Street
Danvers, MA 01923
dana610skss@aol.com



I Remember by Dick Murphy IC3-SS

Here's to us, one and all
 Who heard the message and answered the call
 To break away from the old mainstream and live our lives on a submarine.
 Sub School gave us the chance to pass the test
 To declare that we were The Best of the Best.
 When we left New London with orders in hand
 We all headed out on different courses for distant, faraway lands.
 Some went east coast some went West
 But no matter where you ended up, your first boat's the best.
 You reported on board not knowing what to think
 But now you're known to all as a nub and a dink.

You learn about Tradition and learn about Pride,
 You learn about Honor and the men who have died,
 You learn about the heritage that's been passed on to you
 Because now you're considered one of the crew.
 You study that boat from bow to stern
 From the conning tower to the bilge's, it's your duty to learn
 Where and what makes that boat go, how it operates and in what direction it flows
 How to charge those batteries and keep them alive or how to rig the boat for dive
 Draw those systems fore and aft, blow the shitters, Check the draft
 These are duties that you must glean when you live your life on a submarine
 When you've learned all there is to know about your boat
 You show 'em you know it, by your walk through vote
 You go before the Qual Board, card in hand
 Where they question and grill you to beat the band
 And when you think you can take no more
 They tell you to wait just outside the door.
 For what seems like eons, Time stands still
 And when they call you in, you feel quite ill!
 But they congratulate you for doing so good
 And welcome you into their Brotherhood.
 Right of passage declares that you must drink your "fish".
 And the tacking on process is not something you wish
 But you wear those dolphins on your chest with pride
 Because down deep in your heart, you know you're Qualified.



*The Five Most Dangerous
 Things in the US Navy*

*A Seaman saying, "I learned
 this in Boot Camp..."*

*A Petty Officer saying,
 "Trust me, sir..."*

*A Lieutenant JG saying,
 "Based on my experience..."*

*A Lieutenant saying, "I was
 just thinking..."*

*A Chief chuckling, "Watch
 this shit..."*

It seems like yesterday, it seems like a dream
 That I truly lived on a submarine
 Most Boats are gone, a memory of time
 I wonder what happened to that crew of mine?
 The Old Boats that are left, are all museums
 And even if you rode 'em, you have to pay admission to see 'em.
 So here's to us, those that remember
 Who rode the boats out in all kinds of weather
 To those past, present and even the future
 To those young, hardy lads who still love adventure
 So let's lift our glasses and have a toast
 To the memory of those daring young sailors and their undersea boats.

Dick Murphy IC3-SS
 USS Tiru SS-416

(Given at the 1st USS Tiru SS 416 Reunion Charleston, South Carolina October 29,
 2003)

View From the Bridge



We had a very busy, productive meeting last month on March 1. First of all it was great to see **Lew Edelstein** in attendance. He looked great and he said he was happy to be at the meeting --- and he looked like he meant it!! Of course now we hope the **Doug Bryant** gets back strong and healthy from his recent medical activity. There is a lot missing when some of our senior guys are not there. We need their guidance, wisdom, presence and most of their camaraderie.

We have a lot of things coming up so I want to make sure we are aware of them, so here goes:

- **USSVI 40TH ANNIVERSARY - GROTON** - They have many activities planned for the weekend starting on Thurs. April. 29. Scholarship Golf Tournament; Return to Sub School, Tour/Reception; Submarine Tour; and Anniversary Celebration Banquet. I will have forms available to send to register for these events at the next meeting. They need to receive them by **April 16** to insure space.
- **THRESHER MEMORIAL CEREMONY** - April 17 and their submarine birthday ball the previous night. If you plan to attend the ceremony, we need to send the names to the Thresher Base so that you will be able to get onto the Base. I will have a sign up sheet for that at the April meeting.
- **DISTRICT 1 MTG, AUGUSTA, ME** - May 15, I have forms to fill out and send to Maine by anyone wishing to attend. I have a list of Motels in the area. They plan to have a buffet dinner and dancing that night.

- **MARBLEHEAD BASE ANNUAL SUBMARINE BIRTHDAY BALL - APRIL 24** - Plans are progressing for our biggest event of the year. **Bob Connery** has landed our guest speaker for the evening, and the e-board has arranged for a special guest for the **HOLLAND CLUB INDUCTION**. We will make final arrangements for things that need to be done during the April meeting. **JEFF HOWLETT** has arranged for our usual great dinner - choice of **BEEF OR BAKED FISH**. The e-board has set the price at **\$25**. Per person. We will have a sign up sheet at the April meeting to accept payment and take reservations for your choice of dinner. If you are not at the April meeting and wish to attend, please call me, Don Femino, at 978-922-5439 with your choices.
- **SUBMARINER IN NEED - SANDY ANGUS** sent me an article, which appeared in the Daily Item on Dec. 12. I will bring it to the April meeting and read it. It is about a young submarine veteran who was going about his life and had a tragic motorcycle accident in which he injured his spine and is paralyzed from the chest down. The **Port Hole Pub** in Lynn, where the young guy was working before the accident, is raising funds for the family to help them make their home able to accommodate his wheelchair. I would like the membership to vote to make a donation from our treasury to help this family and also "pass the hat" among us to add to that donation and send it to his family.

Ernest Borgnine Hails Navy Sailors

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Academy award-winning actor Ernest Borgnine spent time with Sailors March 9 at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. During the visit, Borgnine shared with Sailors the influence the Navy has had on his life.

After 10 years of naval service during World War II, Borgnine, 87, said he became more responsible.

"Being here brought back so many memories," he reminisced, often overcome with emotion. "The idea of being a part of something so enormous taught me how to be a man. It gave me something to prove to myself--and to my country. I'd like to be able to do it all over again."

Borgnine, who joined the Navy in 1935, served on the now-decommissioned USS Lambertson (DD 119), reaching the rank of Chief Gunner's Mate, and went on to land the lead role in the popular television series "McHale's Navy." With more than 150 films to his credit, Borgnine received the Academy Award for Best Actor for his role in the hit movie "Marty" in 1955.

"Being in his company was amazing," said Seaman Jordan Logan of U.S. Ceremonial Guard Command, Washington. "Just coming into the Navy, you get lots of advice. It always makes a difference when the advice comes from someone who's actually worn the uniform--and went on to do great things."

"I've seen so many of his movies," said Personnelman 2nd Class Jocelyn Smith of Naval Air Facility, Washington. "This is like a dream come true. He's a real class act. You get the feeling he really cares about our service."

A teary-eyed Borgnine concluded the session by saying to Sailors, "You're serving a great country. Always, always do your best."



U.S. Special Forces Take On Larger Role

Christen Science Monitor

ULTIMATE IRONY:

Generally speaking, there was no such thing as an average fighter pilot during WWII. You were either an ace or a target. For instance, Japanese ace Hiroyoshi Nishizawa shot down over 80 planes. He died while a passenger on a cargo plane.

WASHINGTON - Leading a group of Navy SEALs on raids in Baghdad's maze of maze of neighborhoods, Lt. Cmdr. Jamie Cartwright turned up tattooed members of Saddam Fedayeen, Palestinian terrorists, and makers of fake passports.

Over 300 combat missions in six months, he also discovered something about his own men.

Specialized in raids to kill or capture most-wanted leaders, the SEALs proved very adept at a softer but equally essential skill: gathering intelligence.

Young SEALs would "jump in the back [of helicopters] ... to photograph the targets" and sleuth out street-level sources, he says. After a raid, they scoured houses for documents, cell-phones, and other tips that could lead to quick, follow-on action.

"The guys got really good at searching these homes," said LCDR Cartwright of SEAL Team 5, noting that his men had from two days to as little as 20 minutes to prepare a mission.

As the Pentagon's lead troops in the war on terrorism, elite U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF) are taking on a far more robust and independent role in intelligence and undercover operations as their numbers, deployments, and funding grow at an unprecedented rate.

Indeed, some senior military officers are calling for a transformation of the 49,000-strong force around the imperative for a new, secretive, and ethnically diverse intelligence cadre capable of tracking down sophisticated terrorist networks such as Al Qaeda and its leader, Osama bin Laden. "A robust cadre of humint [human intelligence] forces organic to SOF [Special Operations Forces] would give us perhaps the most important aspect of operations-intelligence fusion that one could get in the field, in direct support of counterterror," says Lt. Gen. Norton Schwartz, director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Yet the shift is also stirring controversy over what some military analysts view as the potential pitfalls of blurring the traditional line between Special Operations and the CIA, especially in the realm of covert action.

Today, the Special Operations Command (SOCOM) is already exercising unprecedented authority under Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to lead the U.S. military's fight against terrorism. The war in Iraq has seen the largest Special Operations deployment since

Vietnam, with more than 80 percent of its deployed forces now in the Central Command area (the Middle East, Central Asia, and North Africa.)

Given the biggest budget increase in its history, SOCOM's funding is projected to increase over the 2003 level by 20 percent per year for the next five years, as it adds 4,000 people to its ranks and dozens of new helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. The personnel increase will include Navy SEALs, Army Special Forces (also known as Green Berets) and Civil Affairs soldiers, and a new 85-man Marine Special Operations unit, Det 1, which is preparing to deploy to Iraq in April.

As part of this growth, the command, based in Tampa, Fla., is carving out a new niche by expanding its intelligence capabilities across the board. It is adding 700 people to its U.S. and overseas regional headquarters to analyze intelligence - gathered by its own forces as well as by CIA agents, spy satellites, and other means - and to plan Special Operations-led missions with an emphasis on agile responses to short-term intelligence.

The nexus of the effort is a new Center for Special Operations, a "warfighting hub" with sole responsibility for "planning, supporting, and executing Special Operations in the war on terrorism," says SOCOM's commander, Gen. Bryan "Doug" Brown. If ordered by the president or Defense secretary, SOCOM's beefed-up headquarters now allows it to reverse roles and direct operations anywhere in the world supported by U.S. regional commanders - instead of supplying forces to serve under them. New intelligence channels

Another way Special Operations leaders are boosting their intelligence capabilities is by leveraging ties with foreign counterparts. For the first time, coalition partners from "several" countries are stationed at SOCOM headquarters, General Brown says.

Intelligence-sharing agreements are also in the works between the Pentagon and close allies, says Thomas O'Connell, assistant secretary of defense for special operations and low-intensity conflict. "We are pushing very hard ... starting with the UK, Australia, and others, to get them access to the SiperNet [classified Internet], break down these barriers, and we will start seeing the type of access and exchange that we need."



*Just a reminder
this is Dave
Campbell's last
IMC someone
needs to step up
as this is a very
important
instrument for
getting out
important
information.*

U.S. Special Forces Take On Larger Role cont'd

With U.S. and foreign Special Operations Forces together in combat, restrictions on information sharing such as the "NOFORN" [no foreigner] classification cease to make sense, defense officials say. "You have this goofy warning on intelligence that says 'NOFORN' that I think is sometimes overused," says Mr. O'Connell. "If someone is fighting and dying with you, at that particular time you don't consider them a foreigner. You consider them a very close ally."

Meanwhile, in coming years larger numbers of U.S. Special Operations Forces will be based overseas for longer rotations, to strengthen bonds with foreign counterparts and gain local access. All these initiatives will build upon the street-level intelligence-gathering skills that elite forces are already demonstrating in Iraq and [Afghanistan](#), military officials say. In Iraq, for example, such troops are generating their own intelligence by going to prisons, interrogating detainees, linking events across zones controlled by different military units - without necessarily relying on CIA spy satellites or other intelligence information.

"They've developed their own intelligence networks. They've gone out, they've grabbed people, and they've effectively shut down a tremendous portion of the problem that exists today," says O'Connell. "Each action often results in additional intelligence ... what I personally call a bounce," he says. "If you hit him in a certain way, something develops from that hit."

Bolstering this independent ability of Special Operations Forces to gather human intelligence may be as vital to defeating terrorists as are combat skills. "This community needs to morph ... and become less kinetic, more nuanced, more collector," General Schwartz, a former SOCOM deputy commander, told a Special Operations gathering last month. He outlined an idea for a future "black," or covert, Special Operations intelligence cadre with cultural and language skills that could operate in disguise. "We need to look more like them than we do like us," he said, speaking of terrorist networks.

Such a force would not conflict with today's

unprecedented cooperation between Special Operations Forces and CIA operatives, say military and defense officials.

"Regarding the interaction between CIA and SOF, I would say, one, there is enough work for everybody," O'Connell said in an interview. "Two, I don't think the relationship between the CIA and Special Operations Forces has ever been closer, and, three, both have their own distinct role. The CIA can certainly provide many considerable advantages to SOF, but their primary mission is still to recruit spies, and SOF is much larger than the CIA." Blurred roles

Still, some military officers and analysts raise concerns about a blurring of roles between the CIA and Special Operations. "The new and apparently ad hoc policy of integrating [SOF and CIA] operations together in combat" has "eroded distinctions between SOF and the CIA," writes Army Col. Kathryn Stone in a research paper published last July.

Specifically, the participation of Special Operations Forces in covert action carries several risks: Such forces, if captured, would lose their Geneva Convention protections that govern conduct in war. Such actions could also alienate foreign governments and prompt them to use soldiers to conduct covert activity against the U.S.. Then, too, traditional military activities are not subject to congressional oversight the way CIA covert action is, notes Jennifer Kibbe, a fellow at the Brookings Institution here who explored the problem this month in a Foreign Affairs article, "Rise of the Shadow Warriors."

In response, Defense officials acknowledge the possible loss of Geneva Convention protections, but assert that few of America's adversaries honor the statutes. The need for Special Operations Forces to work undercover outweighs the risks, they say. "For those who were questioning our ability to do that [operate under cover], and there was some talk that they would take that away, it's not going to happen on my watch," O'Connell says.



"God bless all deep-depth divers.... wherever in the hell you are."





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*"To perpetuate the
memory...."*

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.geocities.com/Marbleheadbase

Military Construction Money Sought For Pier And Dive Tower In '05 Federal Budget

Groton The president's proposed military construction budget for the 2005 fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 includes almost \$46 million for reconstruction of one of the piers at the Naval Submarine Base, and construction of an escape training tower on the waterfront.

The only other funding in the president's draft spending plan that is designated specifically for a submarine base is \$16 million for fence and parking areas at the Trident submarine base in King's Bay, Ga.

The president is seeking funds for 318 major construction projects at more than 175 different locations, at a cost of some \$4.3 billion.

The proposed budget, which must still be approved by Congress, contains \$171 million for a Mark 10 Submarine Escape Trainer, basically a dive tower replacing what was a base landmark for many years.

The previous dive tower was constructed in 1929-30 at a cost of \$120,000, and was closed in 1982. A 1986 study showed it would cost \$267,000 to repair and \$367,000 a year to operate it, versus \$265,000 to demolish it, so it was torn down. In the 1980s the Navy instead built a submarine escape simulator that gives sailors experience in operating the escape equipment, but only a few feet below the surface.

During the half-century the old tower operated, thousands of submariners got a feel for what it might be like to do a shallow-water exit from a disabled submarine by rising through 127 feet of water.

The Navy relaxed its escape training program for many years because its submarines were primarily operating in deep water where escape would not be possible. But now submarines are working much more in near-shore areas, and all submarines are being equipped with Submarine Escape and Immersion Equipment gear, or SEIEs.

Base spokesman Christopher Zendan said by 2005 all submarines will have a full complement of the SEIEs, which contain a full body suit and a one-person raft that would allow someone to survive for hours even in arctic conditions. Currently, submariners get a half-day of training in a large pool. The dive tower will have a 30-foot column of water that sailors will enter from the bottom, to simulate departing a sunken submarine.

The dive towers provide the opportunity for submarine

sailors to feel and understand the psychological and physiological effects of escaping from a submarine,² Zendan said.

The dive tower will be equipped with lockout chambers similar to those found on Los Angeles- and Virginia-class submarines, and will have administrative and medical spaces.

Pier replacement is one of the top priorities at the base, because most of the piers were built to accommodate 1960s-era submarines, and are not wide enough or sturdy enough to handle weapons and food loading operations.

Currently a submarine preparing for deployment might have radio room work done at one pier where the equipment vans can park, load food stores on a second where the trailer can back up, and have their weapons loaded on another that is strong enough to accommodate a large crane.

In addition, the piers lose shore power supplies on a regular basis because the infrastructure is so old, which means a larger crew than usual has to stay on board to run the reactor.

When the USS Seawolf and USS Connecticut joined the fleet in 1997 and 1998, respectively,

The president's military construction budget calls for the replacement of Pier 6, the northernmost of three older piers at the southern end of the base, and is supposed to be the first step in a process that has become a mantra on the waterfront: ³a pier every other year.²

Zendan said the 20-year construction plan calls for the demolition of two of the oldest piers, replacement of eight piers, and improvements to three more.

The replacement of pier 6 is the beginning of what we hope will be the replacement of a pier every other year, Zendan said. Those earlier piers are, right now, unable to support much of the work we would like to be able to conduct from them.²

Up Coming Events

- March 20 - USSVWWII Annual March Meeting in Nantucket (See flyer for details)
- April 17 - Thresher Memorial Ceremony
- April 19 - Patriots Day Parade, Lexington, MA
- April 24th - Marblehead Base Submarine Birthday Ball
- April 29 - Groton Base SubVets 40th Anniversary Ball
- May 15th - District 1 Mtg Augusta ME
- May 26- Memorial Day Parade, Marblehead
- June 7 - Memorabilia Night
- June 2-6- USSVWWII Bay State East Chapter Convention, Plymouth

April 2004

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3 USS Pickerl (SS-177) 43
4	5 Monthly Meeting 1930	6	7 USS Gudceon (SS-211) 44 Membership Meeting 1930	8 USS Snook (SS-279) 45	9	10 USS Thresher (SSN-593) 63
11	12 E-Board Mtg	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Patriots Day Parade Lexington	22 USS Grenadier (SS-210) 43	23	24 Marblehead Submarine Birthday Ball 1800 hrs
25	26	27	28	29	30	