



SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION BARROW-IN-FURNESS BRANCH NEWS LETTER



Combined Chairman and Chaplains Dit April 2007



Having now completed my school assembly notes for St Mary's Church of England Primary School that falls on March 27th, has reminded me that I need to put together some thoughts for my contribution to the April Newsletter. During the month the Branch was treated once again to a splendid Quiz Night organised by Colin and Lynne Hutchinson, and it was encouraging to see an increased sprinkling of serving members; non-serving members; wives and partners; it was particularly good to see Joyce Tull and Joan Cole in what must have been a difficult step for both of them. It was encouraging that they both felt able to spend an evening with friends that they have come to know over many years, of association with our branch, and long may they continue to feel able to attend future social functions. It was also good to see Margaret Budgen on her road to full recovery. However the evening was tinged with some sadness, as it had been announced that day, of the death of two submariners on HMS Tireless. In the time honoured fashion John Hendren Astute's COXN towards the end of the evening organised an issue of Falling Down Medicine and the lives of the two young ratings were remembered and toasted in Lambs Rum, as indeed they would have done if the roles were reversed.

It was disappointing that our annual Navy Army Rugby Match Soirée to the Leicestershire Branch and Twickers had to be cancelled due to lack of support, let us hope

that next year there will be more takers, and that John Houlding will be able to get the show back on the road. On the subject of John, I would like to thank our Vice Chairman for his recent newsletter contributions explaining the minutiae of the both Branch and National Rules of our Submariners Association. One of my many weaknesses is I never read the small print on contracts, so it is good that we have someone with John's talent that keeps the branch running within the legal framework of the association rulebook. Wearing my Branch Lay Chaplains hat that you have given me the honour of wearing will end this newsletter. By reflecting on the words of the Dave Allen the Irish comedian who was a great debunker of the church and its stuffiness. Who is also credited with the famous one liner "I am an Atheist.....Thank God" and always ending his show with the words "Goodnight: Thank You:..... And May Your God Go With You". My challenge for Easter 2007 is what is your take on Easter?.

Regards Jonsey



HMS TIRELESS

A SPECIAL night to raise money for the families of two Submariners killed in a submarine accident is being staged in Barrow on the 4th April.

Local entertainers are giving their services free to help make Wednesday a memorable night at the Friars pub in Friars Lane, Newbarns.

Crew of HMS Astute decided to hold a money raising event after the deaths of Leading Operator Mechanic Paul McCann, 32 from the Midlands, and fellow sailor Anthony Huntrod, 20, of Sunderland, aboard the HMS Tireless on March 22.



Members of HMS Astute approached Tony Chapman, who runs the Friars with his sister Debra, and asked if they would help raise cash for victims' families.

Members of the Barrow Submariners Association are also helping. The evening will include live and disco music, a raffle with major prizes and an auction of items including sports shirts and balls.

By Friday, almost £1,000 had been raised by selling raffle tickets. The pop group Arrival and local singer Mike McCauley will be performing for free as will Pete Murphy, a DJ who works on Abbey FM radio.

Debra Chapman said: "Quite a few submariners come in the pub and they asked if we would help. "We just hope we can make a lot of money for the families of the two lads that died on the submarine. The more money we can make the better." One of the items to be auctioned is a signed shirt from Wes Brown, the Manchester United player who is partner to Tony Chapman's niece, Leanne Wassell.

A string of gifts including holidays, have been given for the raffle. The night was the idea of Astute Chief Petty Officer Lennie Dennett supported by CPO Steve Doughty and others.

CPO Doughty said: "A couple of our people on Astute knew these guys, and at the end of the day they were fellow submariners. HMS Tireless was Barrow-built so there is a local connection." Auction prizes include a large artist's impression of Astute at sea signed by all the crew.

Social scene for April



I hope you are all well and welcome back those lucky ones among you who winter abroad!! The days are getting longer and we have some great socials for you to enjoy in the coming months.

We held a quiz night on Wednesday 21st March at the Harbour hotel and both Lynne and myself were delighted at the support for this event from members, friends and of course the lads from Astute. It was a fun night, which was won by Jeff Thomas, Jan Mead and partners, well done! I'm going to have to handicap this team for the next one. Thank you for your support in the raffle, not only did you supply some good prizes but we raised £60:00 which will go into the 45th Anniversary fund. We also took time to reflect on the accident on Tireless that took the lives of two of our fellow Submariners that occurred that day, our thoughts go out to their families.

14th April

We are now looking forward to attending the Annual Dinner and Dance on the 14th April at the Lisdoonie; I have a fairly healthy attendance list for this event. I can take last minute bookings but I must confirm numbers with the Lisdoonie on Thursday 5th April, please ring me as soon as possible if you would like tickets. For all others who have asked for tickets, can you please get the money to me as soon as possible, unfortunately I will not be able to attend the April meeting, but if you give it to a committee member it will find it's way to me, or you can drop it off at my house.

It was with regret that John Houlding had to cancel our visit to the Army and Navy rugby match on May 5th, this was due to lack of numbers which made the trip financially unviable, it is a good

sociable week end, but we will try again next year.

We have been allocated places for a combined branch visit to Faslane in May; see John or other committee members for details if you would like to go.

7th July

Finally due to a cock up on my behalf, I have had to change the date of the annual Barbeque from July 21st to July 7th more details to follow in the coming newsletters.

A final thank you to all who have donated their garage / shed or loft contents for the car boot sales, the first one should be in a couple of weeks, with a bit of luck I will empty my garage and make some money for the Anniversary fund and if that is successful we will do it again.

Colin Hutchinson - Social Sec

CENTRAL LANCS BRANCH VISIT

The Central Lancs Branch - one of the smaller Branches of the Submariners Association - now hold their Monthly Meetings in Leyland on the 2nd Wednesday of the Month. As we hadn't been down to see them for a couple of years (and as some of the Crew of ASTUTE have elected to join Central Lancs Branch) Wednesday 14th March was the date chosen to descend on them again and give their new Branch Members a chance to meet the other

Members.

Those from the travelling included Bob Faragher, Barrie Downer, Ted Budgen, Bob Palmer and John Hart and, from the ASTUTE Crew, John Hendren, Steve Doughty, Robbie Roberts, Tony Wager and Kevin Mullen. The Crew Minibus was the chosen means of transport and our chauffeur on the way down was John Hendren and, on the way back, Steve Doughty.

First pickups were before 1800 and, having gathered in the team, good time was made and we arrived in plenty of time for their Meeting start. Unfortunately the message that we were coming doesn't seem to have reached those that mattered and we weren't expected and there was only a limited turn out from the Central Lancs Branch however, after a slow start things picked up - helped by the donation of a bottle of rum and a free pint!

After the 'spinning of a few dits' and the raffle of a bottle of rum, won by Kevin Mullen (and promptly opened for 'Tot Time') and the 'group photo' the evening drew to a close and it was time to make our way back to Barrow with a new chauffeur Steve Doughty. An emergency stop was made at a likely looking pub for a quick top up of the alcohol levels (and some seaman like precautions) before the journey back to Barrow where everyone was safely delivered home. Well done the chauffeurs and thanks to all who made the time to visit our 'Boatmates' at Leyland.



Secretary's 'Dit'



By time you read this we will already be in April and 2007 is a quarter of the way through. A reminder that the April Meeting is the Annual General Meeting which is the Membership's opportunity to hold the Committee to account. This year you have the opportunity to either re-elect me as your Secretary for the next three years or to chuck me out and find someone new. I hope I have done a reasonable enough job for it to be the former choice and not the latter. We also need to officially confirm the posts of Welfare Rep and Social Secretary and NMC Conference Delegate at the next AGM.

Don't forget also that we need to nominate and vote for the Ex Officio Committee posts. David Jenkins, Alan West and Ted Budgen are willing to continue to serve the Branch on Committee. Replacements are needed for Bill Cole and Alan Hoskins who has indicated that he wishes to stand down. Alan has also indicated that he would like to hand on the post of 'Slops Representative' to a willing volunteer. So come on - step forward and put your heads over the parapet!

Membership remains steady. Another good friend of the Branch (and former member) 'Crossed the Bar' in the last month. He was Chief RE Ron Cooper who was given a good send off by the Branch. Overall, however, Membership remains at a high level of 150 with the prospect of three more Members in various stages of processing and we are hopeful for a few more re-joiners. Don't forget that you can always approach and encourage submariners of your acquaintance (who are not yet Members) to come and join us.

Hopefully you have all now paid your Membership Subs and have collected your 2007 Membership Cards from Mick Mailey. If you haven't - make sure you bring your £10 notes along to the April Meeting or put them in an envelope and send them to Mick Mailey. Just in case you have

been remiss be prepared to be ambushed by Mick at the AGM. Of course you can always opt to pay by Standing Order to avoid all the hassle come the New Year but please remember to check your Bank Statement to see that the Bank has done its job properly and, ideally arrange for your payment to be extracted from your account on 1st January. I know everyone is poor after Christmas and the New Year but doing it this way you can always smile to yourself when Mick is trying to extract the cash from the others.

Now the usual plea - keep us up to date with your correct Phone Numbers, Addresses and 'e' Mail addresses. Several more Members are now on 'e' mail and I know that several more are thinking about it. So if you get on the Net for the first time or if you change your service provider make sure you tell us as soon as possible so we have accurate and full records.

Last year, on average, only seventeen Members sent in their apologies each month either by phone, e mail or by telling some one they knew was coming to the Monthly Meeting. Given that, on average the Monthly Attendance is thirty six this only accounts for (on average) fifty three Members per month - just over 33%. That means that we don't know what is happening to ninety seven members each month! Don't forget the Branch Rule that you should let us know if you can't come to a Meeting as it helps us to work out whether we need to find out if you are OK. By the way - if you can't get along because you are ill or if you know some one who is ill - let us know and Dave Craven or one of the welfare team will get in contact to see if any help is needed. If you have a transport problem let us know as well and we can see if another Member can give you a lift to the Meeting and back.

On the 24th March we held the 2007 National Council Conference of the Submariners Association - hosted by the Derby Branch. Items for discussion and agreement included:

(a) A re-issue of the Submariners Association Rules & Constitution to reflect changes agreed at previous National

Council Conferences and changes required following the change from FOSM to RASM. This was approved.

(b) Elections for the National Committee - Ted Hogben was returned 'unopposed' for the post of National Vice Chairman.

(c) Elections for two NMC Member posts. Candidates were Bob Wishart (West of Scotland), me - Barrie Downer (Barrow in Furness) and Michael Brocklesby Lincoln Branch. Bob Wishart was re-elected and I am now a National Committee Member for three more years. Michael Brocklesby was unsuccessful this time

(d) A discussion about the honorariums (and amount of) paid to some Members of the National Committee which have not been increased for three years or so. It was agreed that these honorariums will now be adjusted annually in line with the RPI.

(e) The Barrow Branch volunteered to host the 2008 National Council Conference and to hold the 2008 National Draw - to co-incide with the 45th Anniversary of the Barrow Branch. The Conference agreed that Barrow will host both events.

Don't forget the St George's Day Parade on 22nd April. It's a Parade from the Town Hall Square to St Georges Church (early afternoon), a Service and, afterwards at the Engineers. For detail - I'll be making a further statement at the AGM. Well that's it from me this month - over to the rest of the Committee for their contributions. I'll let you get on with reading the rest of this News Letter.

See you all at the Branch Meeting on the AGM on 3rd April don't forget it's at 1930 not 2000



Submariners Association - Annual Draw 2007

The Submariners Association Annual Draw this year is to be hosted by the Lincoln Branch at the RNA Club, Coulson Road, Lincoln at 2000 on Saturday 30th June 2007.

Big Cash Prizes are on offer! This year the Barrow Branch has been allocated £1,500 worth of Draw Tickets - the same value in Tickets as we were allocated last year. In order to get our Tickets sold the Committee has agreed that each Branch Member will be allocated an equal amount of Tickets to sell on behalf of the Branch. Last Year we only had 130 Members this year we have 150 Members therefore selling our Allocation should be easier. Remember one third of all Draw Ticket receipts will be added to Branch Funds thus we have the opportunity to boost the Branch Funds by £500 if we sell them all.

The Tickets are 50p each and are in Books of Ten. All Ticket stubs and money due are to be with the National Treasurer by Saturday 23rd June so you need to get your Ticket Stubs and the Cash to Mick Mailey by Friday 15th June at the latest.

So come on and give the Branch Funds a boost get out there with your Allocation and badger your workmates, friends and families into supporting a worthwhile cause. We don't even mind if you buy all the Tickets yourself - work on the basis that it's 'Speculate to Accumulate' you might boost your own funds whilst also boosting the Branch Funds! Well someone's got to win and you can't do it with out a Ticket!

Prize List

- 1st Cheque for £1000**
- 2nd Cheque for 500**
- 3rd Cheque for 250**
- 4th £75 M & S Vouchers**
- 5th £75 B & Q Vouchers**
- 6th £50 Boots Vouchers**
- 7th £50 garden Centre Vouchers**

- 8th £50 WH Smith Vouchers**
- 9th Case of Wine**
- 10th 2 Bottles of Whisky**
- 11th Bottle of woods rum**
- 12th Luxury box of chocolates**
- 13th Museum Prize**
- 14th ipod video**
- 15th usb pen drive**

Tickets stubs and cheques for sold tickets to be returned to myself or Barrie by Sunday 17th. June 2007 to allow for collation and sending to Lincoln for the Draw on the 30th. June.

Unsold tickets to be returned as soon as possible so that they may be sold or reallocated.

Address for return of tickets;

Mick Mailey
4 Jesmond Avenue
Barrow-in-Furness
Cumbria LA13 9AW

National Council Conference

Just to let you all know that, at the Submariners Association 2007 National Council Conference in Derby last Saturday it was agreed that the 2008 National Council Draw have been allocated to the Barrow in Furness Branch to coincide with our 45th Anniversary. We can now start the detailed planning for these events. Volunteers are required to assist with the planning and organisation of both events. Volunteers are requested to make themselves known to the Committee at the AGM on Tuesday 3rd April. Lets make both these events something special which other Branches will be proud to attend. In the vote for the two available places on the National Management Committee I was successfully elected (so I'm on Committee for the next three years). Bob Wishart of the West of Scotland Branch was also successful. Thank you for your support.

Barrie

Letters

Mr. Downer,

In Canada we heard of the accident yesterday and it came as a surprise and shock. I've sent a copy of the North West Evening Mail article to submariners across Canada. Its never easy to wrestle with the emotions and uncertainties surrounding submarine accidents. When I learned that two submariners died it struck a personal chord. I was the MEO of HMS UPHOLDER, subsequently renamed HMCS CHICOUTIMI, the Canadian submarine that experienced a fire at sea and the loss of Lt(N) Saunders. We as well experienced an Oxygen generator fire, though it wasn't fatal and not the current model in UK service. We certainly learned from our experience, and trust your Navy will as well.

Knowing personally what that means to me, I can only imagine how the families are affected. I too will raise a glass of Rum to Absent Friends and Shipmates, and to Those Still on Patrol.

I thought it fitting to email your branch of the association, purely as a personal and informal gesture, as I too was in Barrow-in-Furness for almost 4 years with the Canadian Acquisition program for the Type 2400 Class. I still have many fond memories of Barrow, Dalton, Ulverston and the surrounding areas that I enjoyed fully while I was there. I wish you all good health.

Yours truly,
LCdr Gordon Young
MARLANTHQ Halifax

Ex-MEO HMS UPHOLDER
Ex-MSEO HMCS CHICOUTIMI



The Vice Chair Branch Rules



Well its early days yet but as we have received absolutely no feedback on the first article explaining the membership rules

I assume you are all clear and happy with the explanation given. So I'll concentrate on Subscriptions for this months issue which is a good time as these are now due for those who have as yet not managed to contact the treasurer.

5. Branch Subscriptions

(a) Subscriptions shall be determined by branch members at the A.G.M. and shall only be changed on a successful vote at an A.G.M.

Note: The total subscription branch plus national, was voted as being £10 per member payable from 1st January 2003. (AGM April 2002).

(b) Subscriptions shall be due from the 1st January each year and are to be paid to the treasurer by the 1st February each year i.a.w. clause 4(a) of the Association Rules and Constitution (This shall be accepted as the February meeting for the branch members). The treasurer is to pay the National contribution of the subscriptions to the National Treasurer by 1st March each year i.a.w clause 4 (d) of the Association Rules and Constituion.

Firstly the National - Submariners Association - membership subscription level is set by the National Council at Conference and currently stands at £5 per year. In order that a reasonably accurate assessment of membership numbers are available each year each branch is required to pay the £5 subscription to the National Treasurer by 1st March prior to the Conference. As a further incentive to branches 'to pay up'; only paid up branches are eligible to be represented by a delegate at the Conference. We at Barrow have therefore set a target for members to have paid their subs by the February meeting giving our

treasurer time to forward fees due to National in good time. After the February meeting all members on the books have their national memberships paid to the national treasurer whether they have actually paid or not. Therefore you are all fully paid up members of the Submariners Association. However those of you who have for any reason not managed to pay the treasurer are in debt to the branch funds and the longer the delay in your payment the longer your funds have to bear that debt.

Now, the Barrow branch membership subscription level is set by the branch at AGM and was agreed as £5 per year at the AGM in April 2002, and remains at that level to date. Without pre-empting the treasurer's financial statement to the branch at the AGM I hope he will declare the funds as 'healthy' and recommend no change to subscriptions for another year. But by the time you are reading this the AGM will be done and dusted and we will all know the result.

What are the funds used for, well there are quite a lot of support expenses in running the branch. Support to the upkeep of the Branch Web Site and the monthly news letter including postage etc. A reserve is held in the Charity Chest to cover good causes and the occasional request for support. An agreed amount has been allocated as a contingency should the need arise to support the Branch's 45th and 50th Birthday celebrations. The purchase of an occasional bottle of something to make branch meetings more fluid and for events such as Remembrance Day. The list goes on but for those who would like to know more about what is paid for from our branch funds the time is perfect as the treasurer will explain all in his financial statement for the AGM.

The is one small point to explain and that is that some members , mostly those who have joined over recent months have opted to pay their subscriptions by direct debit to the National Treasurer. All that happens with that is that the two treasurers reconcile the books when the subs are due by the 1st March prior to the Conference.

Any member who joins the branch and the Association after the Annual Reunion, traditionally the

first weekend in October each year will be asked to pay his £10 total subscription which will cover the remainder of the current year and the whole of the following year.

So that explains the membership subscriptions for National and for the Barrow branch.

Can I finish with a plea to those who have yet to pay for this year please make every effort to contact the treasurer as soon as you can and many thanks from myself and the treasurer to those who are already fully paid up members.

As for last month any feedback or questions on either this or the membership rules explained in last month's edition will be reviewed and responded to as quickly as possible.

Disclaimer, as I am away on holiday for the March Committee meeting I was unable to seek and receive the endorsement of the committee members for this explanation so any errors are definitely down to me,

John Houlding
Vice Chairman

For Him

One day, a man came home and was greeted by his wife dressed in a very sexy nightie. "Tie me up," she purred, "and you can do anything you want." So he tied her up and went golfing.

For Her

A woman came home, screeching her car into the driveway, and ran into the house. She slammed the door and shouted at the top of her lungs, "Honey, pack your bags. I won the lottery!"

The husband said, "Oh my God! What should I pack, beach stuff or mountain stuff?" "Doesn't matter," she said. "Just get out."



Chief Petty Officer Coxswain Gordon Selby

(Adapted from an article by George Malcolmson - Archivist at the Royal Navy Submarine Museum at Gosport)

Gordon Selby, who 'Crossed the Bar' in Australia on 21st March 2007, is known to a whole generation of RN Submarine Officers by virtue of his being the Coxswain of the Submarine Officer Training Corps with the Royal Navy from 1950 until 1959.

In that role, he organized, disciplined, encouraged and instructed his charges thoroughly in all the technical aspects of being a Submarine Officer. By the end of the course, they not only understood the systems in a Submarine, but could operate every piece of equipment in the boat.

He was by that time a legendary character in the Submarine Service for other reasons.

He joined the Navy as a Boy Seaman, aged 15, in 1935. He joined Submarines in 1938 as an Able Seaman. He was made Petty Officer in 1941 and, in February 1942 and thenceforward, he was a CPO Coxswain. He served in Submarines at sea throughout the war, in the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Far East.

He won his first DSM in 1941 whilst 2nd Coxswain of the famous Submarine HMS UPHOLDER. His Captain, David Wanklyn, was later awarded the VC, but this time was awarded the DSO and their common citation reads: "For skill and enterprise in successful submarine patrols".

At this stage the desperate struggle had begun, by our Submarines based in Malta, to interdict Axis supplies to Rommel in North Africa. It was waged on both sides with unrelenting fury and for some time the Royal Navy lost Submarines at a rate of about one per week. The Allied forces paid a terrible price to win the logistics battle which enabled the Allies 8th Army finally to prevail.

UPHOLDER was lost in April 1942 on her final patrol en route to England and refit. Providentially, Gordon was drafted from UPHOLDER just before she sailed, to remain in the Mediterranean as Coxswain of another boat.

He was first 'Mentioned in Despatches', "For selfless devotion in twice rerunning to a sinking vessel to provide others with life-saving apparatus". The "sinking vessel" was in fact HMS OLYMPUS, on which he was a passenger and which had struck a min, in May 42 - about 6 miles south of Malta. She was sinking by the bow - survivors of the explosion were mustered on the casing and Gordon went below, via the conning tower, to fetch such escape apparatus as he could carry on two occasions before she went down. He and 11 others managed to swim ashore. They were the survivors.

On 8 September 1944, he was again 'Mentioned in Despatches', "For undaunted courage, skill and devotion to duty in successful patrols in one of HM Submarines in Far Eastern waters". The Submarine was HMS STORM, commanded by Lt. Cdr. Edward Young, the first RNVR officer to achieve Submarine Command and whose excellent book "One of Our Submarines" was required reading by young peacetime Submarine officers of the time.

On 5 June 1945, Gordon was awarded a Bar to his DSM, "For marked courage, devotion to duty and coolness in action in successful patrols whilst serving in one of HM Submarines". Again, this Submarine was HMS STORM in which, mercifully, he safely finished his 6 years war service at sea.

He received one further award and that was the BEM in 1956 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the training of young Submarine Officers.

In a remarkable career, few episodes would be more remarkable than the manner in which his life was spared on 3 providential occasions. The first was his escape from HMS OLYMPUS in 1942. The second was his drafting from HMS TRUCULENT to HMS

ALLIANCE about three months before the former boat sank with all hands by collision at night in the Thames. The third was his inexplicable collapse and consequent transfer to RNH Haslar, half an hour before he would have sailed in HMS AFFRAY on her final, fatal voyage.

Blue Peter

DEPENDING on your age, you may remember the madcap antics of John Noakes on BBC's Blue Peter... Well, the tradition of daring presenters continues on the children's TV programme, and the next generation of daredevil is flourishing in the form of Gethin Jones who's taken up the submariners' challenge of the Submarine Escape Training Tank. Gethin is the third from the BBC team to brave the depths of the SETT at Fort Blockhouse in Gosport, and unsurprisingly John Noakes was the first to break the surface at the tank back in the late 1960s, followed by Simon Thomas in 1999.

Lt Cdr Bob Mannion, officer in charge of the SETT, said: "It was fantastic to work with the Blue Peter team and good to see them again after their last visit six years ago. "Gethin proved to be extremely comfortable under pressure and in the water, listening attentively to our instructors and progressing well through each stage of the training.

"The grin on his face the first time he reached the surface was a sight to behold - especially after the rather more concerned expression he had adopted before his first ascent.

"I was also pleased to see the reaction of his classmates rather than getting more nervous as the camera team witnessed their own training at such close quarters, they enjoyed the extra attention!" Gethin himself obviously relished the chance to train with the other 18 fledgling submariners: "It's been a real insight and I've enjoyed it. "Floating up in the tank to the top was a great ride-up, especially the second time round when I could relax a bit more. "And I've had no worries - the instructors instil real confidence in you before you get in the water, and I've felt totally safe in their hands."

China Expands Sub Fleet

Ref *WASHINGTON TIMES* 2 MAR 07
China's military is engaged in a major buildup of submarines that includes five new strategic nuclear-missile boats and several advanced nuclear-powered attack submarines, according to the Office of Naval Intelligence.

The new nuclear-powered missile submarines (SSBNs), identified as Type 094s, will be outfitted with new 5,000-mile range JL-2 missiles that "will provide China with a modern and robust sea-based nuclear deterrent force," the ONI stated in report made up of written answers to questions on the Chinese submarine buildup. The ONI report was first disclosed to *Sea Power* magazine, and a copy was obtained by *The Washington Times*. It was the first time the Pentagon has identified the number of new Chinese strategic submarines under construction.

The five new missile submarines will "provide more redundancy and capacity for a near-continuous at-sea SSBN presence," the ONI said, which noted that sea trials for some of the submarines are under way and the first deployments could begin as early as next year. The buildup is raising new concerns among senior Pentagon planners already worried by Beijing's broader strategic nuclear-forces buildup, which also includes several new long-range land-based nuclear missiles and a land-attack cruise missile similar to the Tomahawk.

This is a troubling development," Richard Fisher, a specialist on the Chinese military with the private International Assessment and Strategy Center, said of the submarine buildup.

The five missile submarines, each equipped with 12 JL-2 missiles, shows that China is working to achieve a force of 120 long-range nuclear missiles over the next decade, about half of them to be carried on the submarines, Mr. Fisher said. The other half would be the 60 land-based DF-31 missiles that current deployment rates will give China by then, he said.

The 120 missiles also could have multiple-warheads, since China is known to have acquired all the

needed technology from the U.S. during the 1990s. Retired Vice Adm. Michael McConnell, commenting at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Tuesday, said China's nuclear missiles pose a threat. It's a matter of they're building their military, in my view, to reach some state of parity with the United States," said Mr. McConnell, the new director of national intelligence. "So they're a threat today, they would become an increasing threat over time." Little is known about China's nuclear forces and efforts by Pentagon officials to engage Chinese military leaders about their strategic weapons and forces has not been successful. China's government has insisted its current modernization is part of a peaceful development, but the contrasting strategic nuclear-forces buildup is worrying, defense officials said. Chinese Gen. Zhu Chenghu told reporters in 2005 that China would attack U.S. cities with nuclear weapons in response to any conventionally armed U.S. missile strikes against China during a conflict over Taiwan. Years earlier, Gen. Xiong Guangkai threatened to use nuclear weapons against Los Angeles if the U.S. helped Taiwan defend against a Chinese invasion of the island.

The missile-submarine buildup would provide Beijing with a major upgrade on current capabilities. In 1983, China built one Xia-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, reportedly with 12 1,000-mile range JL-1 missiles. But that solitary submarine has only twice test-fired its missiles and never ventured beyond China's regional waters. "Although the range of the JL-1 limits the Xia's utility as a deterrent platform, targets throughout the region, including U.S. military facilities, could be targeted with the JL-1 from launch points inside traditional Chinese navy operating areas," the ONI said.

On China's new attack submarine, the ONI stated that China already has launched and is performing sea trials on an unspecified number of Type 093 nuclear-powered attack submarines. Published reports in China have said two Type 093 attack submarines are deployed and use "foreign technologies" and advanced anti-ship missiles and

torpedoes.

The new advances are part of China's efforts to bolster its anti-ship weapons to permit strikes at greater ranges from the Chinese coast than its current diesel-powered submarine force offers, the ONI said. China currently is upgrading its current force of about 55 attack submarines -- most of them easy-to-track diesel boats -- with more-advanced and harder-to-track vessels, including Russian-made Kilos, and its own Song- and Yuan-class submarines. "Each of these submarine classes, which are quiet platforms with anti-ship cruise missiles, is an integral part of China's regional anti-access strategy," ONI said. "The quieting incorporated into these submarines is required for successful operations in the open ocean operating areas which could facilitate the [Chinese navy's] wartime mission of keeping enemy combatants outside of strike range of the theater of operation."

A Song-class submarine surfaced undetected within five miles, well within firing range, of the aircraft carrier *USS Kitty Hawk* in October.

The ONI stated that China's maritime strategy is focused on blocking U.S. or Japanese intervention in a future conflict over Taiwan. To that end, Beijing has begun equipping its medium- and short-range ballistic missiles based on shore, hundreds of which are deployed across the Taiwan Strait from the island that the communist regime views as a renegade province, with maneuvering warheads. These radar-guided or heat-seeking weapons "provide the accuracy necessary to attack a ship at sea," ONI said.

But China's rise in international trade and commerce, plus its growing dependence on imported foreign oil, also has expanded Beijing's maritime strategy from a mostly submarine force to one of building surface ships to "defend sea lines of communication" (SLOCs), because protecting sea-lanes with submarines is difficult. ONI also said that in addition to new destroyers, "by 2020, China is likely to operate an aircraft carrier, the initial unit of which may be the refurbished ex-Varyag, acquired from Ukraine in 2000, to further support SLOC protection."



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News Letter

Contact Information

Do you have a story to tell or have information you feel should appear in the news letter then ring Ben Britten on 01229 820265 (evenings) or if you wish to send me an article please ring for postal address. or send your contribution by e-mail to:

ben_britten89@msn.com

Constructive suggestions about the news letter are very welcome. The news letter will be published in the last week of each month IE last week of April for the May 2007 issue please try and have any information with me by the 15th of each month. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition.



www.rnsubmus.co.uk



Members Birthdays

April 2007

Dalton	J	01/04
Lorking	W	03/04
Taylor	S	08/04
Lowe	D	09/04
Anderson	E	10/04
Hiseman	R	12/04
Wadding	P	12/04
May	S	18/04
Hart	J	18/04
Baker	D	23/04
Houlding	J	29/04



Humour

Marriage is a relationship in which one person is always right, and the other is a husband.

Mother Superior called all the nuns together and said to them, "I must tell you all something. We have a case of gonorrhoea in the convent."

"Thank God," said an elderly nun at the back. "I'm so tired of chardonnay."

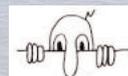
A Polish immigrant went to apply for a driver's license.

First, of course, he had to take an eye sight test. The optician showed him a card with the letters:

'C Z W I X N O S T A C Z.'

"Can you read this?" the optician asked.

"Read it?" the Polish guy replied, "I know the guy."



Wot. No beer?

DIESEL BOAT SUBMARINERS 1960 - 1997

17th Annual Reunion

The 17th Annual 'Diesel Boat Submariners' Reunion will, once again, be held at the **Weston Mill O.V. Social Club, Ferndale Rd, Plymouth (Near the Camels Head Fire Station) on Saturday 4th August, starting at 1115 to 2359.**

A Buffet Lunch will be available on request at a cost of £4 per head, booked and paid for in advance. For those who require food, it will be necessary to forward a cheque for the sum of £4.00 made payable to Mr K. J. Woods.

Please continue to contact me - Slinger Woods at Ken.Woods@itv.com – if you would like to attend (see Application Form below). Also if you know of any other ex-Diesel Boat Submariners who are unaware of the Reunion but would like to attend, contact me with his name and address and I will ensure he receives a letter.

Yours aye

Ken 'Slinger' Woods

Programme

Please do not arrive before 1115

1115	Start CHECK IN
1130	Bar Open
1400	Welcome Speech.
1415	Buffet available.
1900	Lounge Bar closed.
1900 - 2359	Main Bar and Entertainment Lounge.

--

Delete as necessary

I.....**will / will not** be attending the 17th Annual Reunion on Saturday 4th August 2007.

I will / will not require food and enclose a cheque to the value of £4.00

My address

.....
.....

Post Code.....

Email.....

Date.....Signature.....

From: Mr Colin Way (Museum Secretary)

THE ROYAL NAVY SUBMARINE MUSEUM



**Haslar Jetty Road
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PO12 2AS**

**Tel: 023 925 10354 / 927 65250 Ext 225
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e-mail rnsubs@rnsbmus.co.uk**

The Submariners Association

Gentlemen

14 Mar 07

UPDATED SLOP LIST OF SA ITEMS ON SALE FROM THE SUBMARINE GIFT SHOP AT THE MUSEUM

Blazer Badge	9.75
Beret Badge	6.00
Lapel Badge	4.00
Twin Dolphins	5.00
Small Dolphins	3.00
SA Tie	12.00

Cheques should be made payable to "RNSM ENTERPRISES LTD"

The latest Gift Shop Catalogue is also available on request

Any enquiries please contact

The Retail Manager
Submarine Giftshop Ltd

02392 511585

Thank you for your custom

Anyone also wishing to buy an autographed picture of me its five grand.

Regards to all

Colin Way
Museum Secretary
Chairman Dolphin SA
Ex Coxswain and War Veteran and Pompey Supporter.

The Royal Navy Submarine Museum is a Registered Charity (No. 1068419)

VAT number 1088 42370

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