



ISSUE 08 / APRIL 2019

SUBMARINE DIVISION



SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ALMOST 200 submariners from around the country gathered in Leicester for the Submariners Association Annual Reunion from March 22-24.

Events began on Friday afternoon when members, along with their wives and partners, met with old oppos to share a dit or two. The following day they attended a church service before holding the Annual General Meeting in the afternoon.

But it was on Saturday evening that the main event was held – a Gala Dinner where Veteran submariner and National Vice President Rick Elrick was presented with The Patron's Commendation. Rick received the award for his outstanding contribution to the Association and to his own local Lincoln branch.

Rick served for 22 years as a submariner and was the first Coxswain of HMS Resolution (Starboard), the first of the eight boats that have maintained our Continuous At Sea Deterrent for 50 years.

The highest honour bestowed by the Submariners Association, the commendation was presented by Rear Admiral Submarines (RASM), RAdm John Weale, on behalf of Association Patron, Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Boyce.

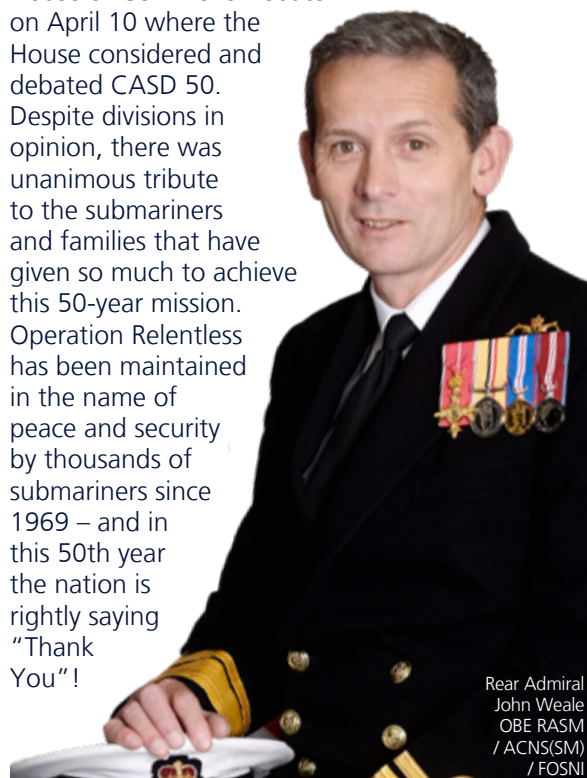
The wonderful evening was rounded-off with a few traditional toasts and a speech from RASM.



Rick Elrick receives his commendation from RAdm Weale.

MESSAGE FROM REAR ADMIRAL SUBMARINES (RASM)

THE CASD 50 events continue with a service at Westminster Abbey on May 3 to recognise the commitment of the Submarine Service – and I hope to see many of you and your families there. Operation Relentless is the longest sustained military operation in history. The service at Westminster Abbey is the first of many events to rightly commemorate the sacrifice and endeavour that has been required by the Service personnel and veterans, their families and numerous military and civilian support communities. No other nation has successfully delivered Continuous At Sea Deterrence as we do, with just four submarines. Despite the significance of this extraordinary endeavour, the concept of deterrence continues to divide political opinion. This was illustrated in the House of Commons Debate on April 10 where the House considered and debated CASD 50. Despite divisions in opinion, there was unanimous tribute to the submariners and families that have given so much to achieve this 50-year mission. Operation Relentless has been maintained in the name of peace and security by thousands of submariners since 1969 – and in this 50th year the nation is rightly saying "Thank You"!



Rear Admiral
John Weale
OBE RASM
/ ACNS(SM)
/ FOSNI

CATERING TEAM RECOGNISED FOR CONTRIBUTION TO CASD

HMS VENGEANCE (PORT) Catering Services team have been awarded the Fleet Catering Award 2018-19 for their exemplary work in helping to keep their vessel at sea and patrolling.

Presenting the award on April 3, was Cdr Douggie Ward MBE, Commander Logistics for the Submarine Flotilla.

"The Catering Services team of HMS Vengeance (Port) are more than worthy recipients of the Fleet Catering Award," said Cdr Ward.

"They face catering challenges unknown by their General Services counterparts in having to produce balanced, interesting and healthy meals long after the fresh produce has run out; there is simply no option of a replenishment at sea or a top-up on a port visit for this team."

The Fleet Catering Award is presented annually to the most outstanding Catering Services Department in the Royal Navy.

The Submarine Service has held the award for two years in a row now, with HMS Vengeance (Starboard) being last year's recipients.



Cdr Ward presents the trophy to HMS Vengeance Port's Catering Services team.

THREE DISCOVER HIDDEN DEPTHS DURING PERISHER

THREE new names have been added to the exclusive list of those who have successfully completed the Submarine Command Course (SMCC).

Known as "Perisher", the SMCC is widely recognised as the toughest military training course in the world. For 24-weeks, prospective submarine commanders are put through their paces

in the class room, on simulators, and at sea in some of the most challenging environments imaginable.

For the successful few the reward is the opportunity to become Executive Officer and eventually Commanding Officer of one of the UK's nuclear-powered submarines. For the unsuccessful it usually means the end of their time with the Silent Service, being moved off submarines to a surface fleet role.

Six candidates joined HMS Ambush for the sea assessment phase of the training recently. After four-weeks, three were judged by Teacher – Cdr Jenkins – as having what it takes to independently command a submarine.

The successful three were the RN's Lt Cdr Burton and Lt Cdr Thornton, along with Lt Cdr Coy from the US Navy.

Cdr Jenkins said: "For over 100 years Perisher has been the ultimate test for those officers in pursuit of submarine command. I am proud to be a Perisher myself and delighted that the three have passed the course and will join the exclusive club."



L-R: Cdr Jenkins, "Teacher" of The SMCC; Cdr McAllister, CO of HMS Ambush; Lt Cdr Thornton; Lt Cdr Burton; Lt Cdr Coy, USN; and Capt Breckenridge, Flag Officer Sea Training (North).

FIRST AS INTERNATIONAL PERISHERS GATHER AT CLYDE

SENIOR personnel from seven nations gathered at the Home of the UK Submarine Service recently to mark the completion of each country's respective Perisher course.

Although the UK was the first to establish a Submarine Command Course, other navies have followed over the years, each establishing their own version of the demanding training.

On April 15, for the first time ever, representatives from the UK, Chile, Australia, The Netherlands, Canada, Norway, and Germany visited HMNB Clyde for a "Perisher Breakfast". During the occasion, successful candidates from each country's SMCC were congratulated in the presence of the Perishers' Teachers.

Attending were: RAdm Carlos Schnaidt, Commander-in-Chief of the Chilean Submarine Force; Cdre Douglas Theobald, Commander of the Royal Australian Navy's Submarine Force; Cdre Jan Hulsker, Commander Netherlands Maritime Force; Capt Herman de Groot, Captain Netherlands Submarine Service; Capt Christopher Robinson, Commander of the Canadian Submarine Force; Capt Oliver Berdal, Commander Norwegian Submarine Service; and Cdr Timo Cordes, Head of the German Submarine Service. The group were hosted throughout by RAdm John Weale RN, RASM.



Senior personnel, Teachers and Perishers gather at Clyde.



SUBMARINE FLOTILLA UPDATE

IT has been another busy month at the waterfront with all three A-class SSNs at sea conducting training, exercises and operations.

HMS Artful is now fully operational and on the trained strength after completing her first full BOST package since build, while HMS Ambush has conducted a number of exercises this month with the French and Portuguese navies, before picking up SMCC.

HMS Astute returned alongside for leave and maintenance after a running period stretching back to August last year.

This month there have been the following policy changes affecting Flotilla personnel:

- Following an amendment to BRd3(1) LET(MESM)s are now eligible for promotion to POET(MESM) following 30, rather than 36, months in the rate. Secondly, OPS is now a pre-promotion requirement rather than a pre-selection (RNTM 01-017/19). There has also been changes to the UGAS (MESM) training pipeline (RNTM 01-018/19).

- For WE Fast Track ETs the selection process has also been amended to allow earlier selection (RNTM 01-012/19).
- NCHQ is conducting a survey of Warfare Officers to better understand the current perceptions of their two-stage career, with the first stage being sea going and the second as staff officer. Focus groups are being run by the Naval Psychologist Team, with an event planned with SUBFLOT on May 9. The team will discuss Warfare Officer (Submarine) careers with Junior Warfare Officers, Navigators and Watch Leaders. Those wishing to attend should contact SUBFLOT XO (Andrew.Beck937@mod.gov.uk).
- SUBFLOT is compiling a plot to understand all Warfare Officers' progress towards CQ1. This is to enable Flotilla to monitor officers' progress towards this important career milestone (FASFLOT CAPTEM 14-19 refers) and ensure they are receiving sufficient professional support. For information, FASFLOT's CQ1 mentor is Cdr FPBS, while FOST(N) are conducting termly CQ1 Deployment Weeks (RNTM 07-065/19).

COMMAND WARRANT OFFICER SUPERSESSION

THE Submarine Service has a new Command Warrant Officer with WO1 Andy Knox handing-over to WO1 Tony Care on March 20.

The ceremonial hand-over of the Command Warrant Officer cane took place at the annual Submarine Service Birthday Dinner, with WO1 Knox retiring after occupying the CWO post for three years.

WO1 Knox hands-over to WO1 Care.

The job is now in the capable hands of WO1 Care, who said: "Thirty-two years of naval service brings me to this point where I have been given the greatest privilege to work on behalf of the men and women of the Submarine Service."



SUBMARINE CALENDAR

3 May – CASD 50 National Service of Thanksgiving, Westminster Abbey

WHAT'S IN NEXT MONTH

CASD 50 Westminster Event.

RNTMS / DINS OF INTEREST

2219DIN01-056 – Voter Registration for May 2019 European Parliamentary Elections.

RNTM 07-024/19 – WESM(TWS, CIS and SWS) Forum – 28 Aug 19, HMNB Clyde.

RNTM 07-031/19 – Future Management & Delivery of Naval Core Training (Formerly Core Maritime Skills).

FUTURE ACCOMMODATION MODEL

HMNB CLYDE will be the first military site to trial the Future Accommodation Model (FAM) Ministers have announced.

Three locations have been chosen to pilot FAM, beginning with HMNB Clyde on September 30 this year.

The MOD is looking at how it can improve the accommodation offer for Service personnel, to make it fairer, and more flexible, while also keeping it affordable for the MOD.

FAM will apply to personnel with families and those without, whether single, in a relationship, or married, and aims to provide you with a level of accommodation subsidy according to your need, not based on your rank or marital status.

To familiarise yourself with the FAM pilot, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-accommodation-model-what-you-need-to-know/what-you-need-to-know-about-fam>.



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