

It is my opinion that this has become a major matter for many Sabalo vets. A number of men have already passed away from conditions and diseases that could be presumed to be caused by Agent Orange. So I have placed the matter on Page 1. - ed.

AGENT ORANGE EXPLAINED

Recent communications with a number of shipmates reveals that many have little knowledge of what Agent Orange is and what implications come from the extensive use of it during the Viet Nam War. During the most intensive period of its use, from August 1965 to 1971, DOD sprayed 11.22 million gallons of Agent Orange in Vietnam, with about 3 gallons per acre sprayed undiluted. DOD has little information available on the number or extent of personnel exposure to herbicides in Vietnam. Four herbicides were used: --Agent Orange (a mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T); --Agent Purple (a similar mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T that contained a different form of 2,4,5-T--it was replaced by Agent Orange in 1964); --Agent White (a mixture of 2,4-D and Picloram); and --Agent Blue (cacodylic acid). A Defense official said that pesticides malathion and DDT were the other principal sprayed chemicals used in Vietnam; they were used throughout the war for mosquito control. Malathion was sprayed by aircraft, and DDT was applied by back pack and paint brush. The official said that no information is readily available on the quantities used in Vietnam. Malathion is still used domestically for insect control. However, in 1972 EPA cancelled all except public health and quarantine uses of DDT because of its persistence, biomagnification, and toxicological effects.

The full period the U.S. military sprayed herbicides over Vietnam, from 1962 to 1971, was to strip the thick jungle canopy that could conceal opposition forces, to destroy crops that those forces might depend on, and to clear tall grasses and bushes from the perimeters of US base camps and outlying fire-support bases. Mixtures of 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D), 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T), picloram, and cacodylic acid made up the bulk of the herbicides sprayed. The main chemical mixture sprayed was Agent Orange, a 50:50 mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. At the time of the spraying, 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD), the most toxic form of dioxin, was an unintended contaminant generated during the production of 2,4,5-T and so was present in Agent Orange and some other formulations sprayed in Vietnam. According to a National Academy of Sciences report, about 18.85 million gallons of herbicides were sprayed during the 1962 to 1971 period. The Academy became the main source of scientific study, and the main authority reporting to Congress on the problem and its implications.

—cont on pg 3



2023 USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION

27 Aug—3 Sep in Tucson, AZ
Tucson Hilton El Conquistado

<https://www.ussvi.org/2023-ch?erid=187406>

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND, PLEASE COMMUNICATE SO YOUR NAME CAN BE POSTED ON THE SABALO WEB SITE AND YOU CAN ARRANGE TO MEET UP WITH OTHER VETS FROM 302.

USS SABALO SS-302**BALAO (SS-285) CLASS DIESEL-ELECTRIC SUBMARINE****IN COMMISSION: 1945-46 & 1951-71****A Proud Workhorse of the Fleet**


*She made her missions.
We did our best.
We served our country.
This has been done.*


*Vol. III No. 15 June 2023*

CLEVER BOY is a privately authored and published newsletter of the **USS Sabalo Association**. An informal group for the preservation of the submarine's history, the assemblage of the list of all who served in her, chronicling her exploits and missions, and celebrating the memories of those who manned her.

"Clever Boy" was the radio call sign for Sabalo, and NXYO was her flag identification code.

CB is currently distributed via online and hard copy to ~280 veterans of the U.S. Navy submarine, USS Sabalo SS-302.

 Online viewers—Follow the links with each item for the full story.

 Hard copy readers only get the first two pages in color. On the Sabalo web site all pages have color possible.

WEB SITE: <http://ussabalo.org> For more information about the men who served in her, the ship's details and exploits, and copies of past *Clever Boy* newsletters beginning from 2009

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THANKS TO RECENT DONORS

(with rank/rating & dates aboard 302)

Burtner, Ken YN2(SS) Nov61-Aug63
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Piragis, Donald EM3(SS) Aug63-mid64
Roemmich, Vern YN2(SS) Oct66-Jun69
Vincent, Robert TM3(SS) Sep60-Oct62

Thanks to all who have donated to keep the Clever Boy and Sabalo web site supported.

On occasion I have returned some checks because I cannot cash them made out to "USS Sabalo Association".

To Explain: Early on, when I first started organizing reunions for the boat, I had a separate account which helped me maintain track of the thousands of dollars collected when setting up the reunion particulars. Then along came the Patriot Act and because every American was now suspect of funding ISIS, or some other terrorists, the banks were forced to ID every depositor. Along with that came the IRS who wanted to know if account holders were somehow avoiding giving them every nickel that they wanted. So what was required was the filing for an E.I.N. for the "USS Sabalo Association", and the most annoying part was the necessity to file an annual tax return with full accounting for all monies. Before the law was in effect, anyone could walk into a bank and open an account for 'Tuesday Mixed Bowling league' or 'Jeff's Handyman Service' and all that was needed was a signature card.

So with all that b.s., I stopped using the EIN and having an account in that name. All transactions are now just in my name and I keep separate accounting of Sabalo funds to only spend donated money for Sabalo related expenses. So if you make a contribution, please send your check made out to me personally.

As a point of reference, the two basic and biggest expenditures are the ad-free web site hosting @ \$215/yr, and the newsletter printing & hard copy distributions which are about \$2/ea or \$100/issue now that we are down to 50 copies for hard copy distribution to men who get the CB by USPS.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR OF ANY CHANGES OF ADDRESS EITHER USPS OR EMAIL.

If you can no longer receive email, please remember to communicate so that you can be switched to receive a hard copy. The cost of those who receive hard copies is supported by donations.

If you have no interest in this newsletter, please communicate so funds can be conserved.

AGENT ORANGE cont. fm pg 1

... The Congressional committee appointed to investigate was also tasked with comparing exposures among three military populations that served in Vietnam: troops on the ground, Brown Water Navy personnel (meaning service on the rivers of VN), and Blue Water Navy personnel. Since the 1970s, IOM committees and other groups have attempted to reconstruct Vietnam veterans' potential exposure to Agent Orange and dioxin. Given the lack of exposure data on ground troops, the uncertainty of exposure models, and the limited knowledge about exposure among BWN veterans, the committee concluded that it was not possible to make quantitative exposure comparisons among the three military populations of interest to the VA. Therefore, the committee evaluated the plausibility of exposure of the three populations to Agent Orange and dioxin via various mechanisms and routes. Several plausible exposure pathways and routes of exposure to Agent Orange–associated dioxin in the three populations were identified. Plausible pathways and routes of exposure of Blue Water Navy personnel include inhalation and dermal contact with aerosols from spraying operations that occurred at or near the coast when Blue Water Navy ships were nearby, contact with marine water, and uses of potable water prepared from distilled marine water.

Large US Navy ships—such as aircraft carriers, cruisers, and destroyers [and submarines, generally ignored in all reports]—had their own distillation systems to produce potable-water and distribution systems that included water-treatment processes. The issue of distillation of marine water is important because the VAO committee for Update 2008 found that Blue Water Navy veterans could have been exposed to dioxin via contaminated potable water. This conclusion was based on an Australian Department of Veterans Affairs report that determined that Royal Australian Navy personnel who served offshore in Vietnam were exposed to Agent Orange–associated dioxin because the distillation systems aboard the ships were thought to be able to concentrate the the marine water, distilled potable water would be a plausible pathway of exposure dioxin in marine water into the potable water during the evaporative process. If Agent Orange–associated dioxin was present in marine water, distilled potable water would be a plausible pathway of exposure for Blue Water Navy veterans.

The early comprehensive 2011 committee concluded that, qualitatively, ground troops and Brown Water Navy veterans had more plausible pathways of exposure to Agent Orange–associated dioxin than did Blue Water Navy veterans. But one exposure mechanism was specific to Blue Water Navy ships: possible dioxin contamination of potable water from onboard distillation plants. However, without information on the dioxin concentrations in the marine feed water, it is impossible to determine whether Blue Water Navy personnel were exposed to Agent Orange–associated dioxin via ingestion, dermal contact, or inhalation of potable water.

Resource for 2011 rpt: <http://nap.nationalacademies.org/13026>

The next point that additional comprehensive data was summarized was the committee report of *2018 Veterans and Agent Orange - 2018 update adverse effects of phenoxy herbicides and 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD)*

See: Update 11 -537 pgs. <http://nap.nationalacademies.org/25137>

History of Congressional Action

Because of complaints from returning Vietnam veterans about their own health and that of their children combined with emerging toxicologic evidence of adverse effects of phenoxy herbicides and TCDD, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine was asked to perform a comprehensive evaluation of scientific and medical information regarding the health effects of exposure to Agent Orange, other herbicides used in Vietnam, and the various components of those herbicides, including TCDD. Updated evaluations were conducted every two years to review newly available literature and draw conclusions from the overall evidence. *Veterans and Agent Orange: Update 11 (2018)* examines peer-reviewed scientific reports concerning associations between various health outcomes and exposure to TCDD and other chemicals in the herbicides used in Vietnam that were published between September 30, 2014, and December 31, 2017, and integrates this information with the previously established evidence database.

The VA received the first claims asserting conditions related to Agent Orange in 1977. Since then, Vietnam-era veterans have sought relief from Congress and through the judicial system. Beginning in 1979, Congress enacted several laws to determine whether exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam was associated with possible long-term health effects and certain disabilities.

See report dated 2014 for synopsis: <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/misc/R43790.pdf>

-Cont. on pg 4

AGENT ORANGE—cont. from page 3 In 1991, Congress passed Public Law 102-4, the **Agent Orange Act of 1991**, which established a process for determining which illnesses among Vietnam veterans should be “presumed” to be due to herbicide exposure. It also contracted The NAS Institute of Medicine to provide biennial reports to the VA with updates. In 2005 it publicly released the fifth biennial update which was based upon updated NAS reports in 1996, 1998, 2000, and 2002. This caused the VA to expand the list of presumptive diseases and other expanded definitions of affected persons.

The **Blue Water Navy (BWN) Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019** (PL 116-23) extended the presumption of herbicide exposure, such as Agent Orange, to Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975. Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, Veterans who served as far as 12 nautical miles from the shore of Vietnam, or who had service in the Korean Demilitarized Zone, are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides, such as Agent Orange, and may be entitled to service connection for any of the 14 conditions related to herbicide exposure.

The **PACT Act of 2021** is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is **The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act**.

The PACT Act adds these changes:

- ◆ Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- ◆ Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- ◆ Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation

<https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>

Agent Orange Registry Health Exam for Veterans

- Free to eligible Veterans and no co-payment
- Not a disability compensation exam or required for other VA benefits
- Enrollment in VA’s health care system not necessary
- Based on Veterans’ recollection of service, not on their military records
- Will not confirm exposure to Agent Orange

Details: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/benefits/registry-exam.asp>

[[Editor's note: Most of this synopsis is extractions from online sources. I have tried to compress the salient aspects for simpler comprehension. I recommend you do your own research, and if you feel you may have a malady or claim, then start by contacting a "VSO" - a Veterans Service Officer, or in most states your county veterans representative to ask questions on how to pursue examinations, treatment, and disability claims. And also contact the VA to arrange for a preliminary examination. **DO IT NOW !!** There’s no deadline to apply for PACT Act benefits. But if you file your PACT Act claim—or quickly submit your intent to file—by August 9, 2023, you may receive benefits backdated to August 10, 2022. So don’t wait, apply today. I would be happy to answer any questions from my experience so far.]]

History behind the Navy’s ‘Dixie Cup’

1886 was the first appearance of the forerunner of the "Dixie-cup", originally a high-domed, low rolled brim made of wedge-shaped pieces of canvas was written into uniform regulations.

Eventually, the canvas material was replaced by a cheaper, more comfortable cotton. This option became popular with the sailors who wore them as they could bend the cover to reflect their individual personality ...

<https://www.wearethemighty.com/popular/this-is-the-history-behind-the-navys-dixie-cup/>

29 March 2023 The 50th National Vietnam War Veterans Day is a national opportunity to share our appreciation for the sacrifices made by a generation of veterans. Thank you, Vietnam veterans, for your courage in war and service to our nation, both in and out of uniform.

VETERAN
SLOWER THAN A
SPEEDING BULLET
LESS POWERFUL THAN
A LOCOMOTIVE
UNABLE TO
LEAP TALL
BUILDINGS IN
A SINGLE BOUND
AND YET -
STILL A SUPER MAN



HEADLINE NEWS

Follow links for full story

FEEDBACK NEEDED—Your editor searches far and wide for topical info to pass along. *If you see some cool stuff, send it in for inclusion.*

Submarine Sailor Dies After Being Found Injured on Shipyard Pier -28 Mar 2023.

A crewman of newly commissioned USS Montana was found injured Monday on a pier near where the boat was docked and was later pronounced dead. No details have initially been released. The Montana's [Construction of the boat began in 2018](#), and the vessel was [handed over to the Navy by Huntington Ingalls](#) in March 2022. The sub was [commissioned in June 2022](#) but is still at the shipyard for post-shakedown maintenance.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/28/submarine-sailor-dies-after-being-found-injured-shipyard-pier.html>

Update 29 Mar- Electronics Technician Navigation 3rd Class Devon Faehnrich, from Colorado, [was found by a fellow sailor](#) at the shipyard at Newport News, Virginia, before being taken to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced dead.

USS IOWA COMMISSIONED 17 Jun 2023

This Virginia Class will be the fourth USN ship named after the State of Iowa, the 3 prior being battleships. She is also the first attack class submarine built specifically to accommodate both male and female service members onboard.

<https://ssn797.com/>

Nearly 100 Deaths, Half a Million Cases: The Toll from 3 Years of the Coronavirus Pandemic on the Military

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/28/nearly-100-deaths-half-million-cases-toll-3-years-of-coronavirus-pandemic-military.html>

The Navy is offering up to \$75,000 in enlistment bonuses to get more sailors

18 Jun 2023—the Navy announced a series of new enlistment bonuses and eligibility rules for them, aiming to “attract the highest quality of recruits and ensure Fleet readiness.” There are a number of different bonuses, but by far the largest one goes to those who work in nuclear fields, training to operate or maintain the Navy’s nuclear-powered surface vessels and submarines. That includes roles such as Electrician’s Mate Nuclear (EMN), Electronics Technician Nuclear (ETN) or Machinist’s Mate Nuclear (MMN). They can get a \$75,000 enlistment bonus. That cash points to the importance and difficulty of those roles; all other enlistment bonuses in the Navy are capped at \$50,000. <https://taskandpurpose.com/military-life/navy-nuclear-enlistment-bonuses/>

” We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me
Shall be my brother;”

From William Shakespeare’s Henry V, 1598:

2023 Military Pay Raise the Largest in 20 Years

Under the plan, active-duty troops and drilling Guard and reserve members will receive a 4.6% pay raise. That pay raise represents about \$1,300 more over the course of the year for many junior troops and \$2,500 for senior enlisted and junior officers, was included in the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA. It was signed into law 23 Dec 2022 by President Biden.

The 2023 raise is joined by a more than 11% bump to Basic Allowance for Subsistence rates. Still, the 2023 military pay boost does not match the pace of inflation, which sat at 7.7% in October, the last month for which data is available at press time.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/12/07/2023-military-pay-raise-will-be-largest-20-years.html>

Warships' Near Collision in San Diego Averted by Junior Officers, Navy Investigation Finds

[Seems like some CO's and pilot's need some remedial ship handling lessons, and these reports are too brief to know what was being said over the harbor frequency.—ed.]

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/04/14/warships-near-collision-san-diego-averted-junior-officers-navy-investigation-finds.html>

& this shows pics: <https://news.usni.org/2023/04/13/swift-actions-by-jos-prevented-warship-collision-in-san-diego-harbor-investigation-finds>

Pentagon Accounting Error Provides Extra \$6.2 Billion for Ukraine Military Aid

The Pentagon said it overestimated the value of the weapons it has sent to Ukraine by \$6.2 billion over the past two years.

A detailed review of the accounting error found that the military services used replacement costs rather than the book value of equipment sent to Ukraine. There was an error of \$3.6 billion in the current fiscal year and \$2.6 billion in the 2022 fiscal year, which ended last Sept. 30. As a result, the department now has additional money in its coffers to use to support Ukraine as it pursues its counteroffensive against Russia.

<https://apnews.com/article/ukraine-russia-war-weapons-surplus-funding-72eeb6119439146f1939d5b1973a44ef>

[ed.—

1. *Can you trust a government that is so incompetent it loses billions due to accounting errors?*
2. *Is this just a scheme to avoid Congressional approval for spending more?*
3. *Does this mean we won't be replacing any of what we're giving away (and likely at a much higher cost than initial procurement cost? }*

My body is the shape I live in and it shapes the way I live. Raquel Welch (1940-2023)

FROM OUT OF THE TOMATO BOX

By Editor Jeff Owens

Not a day goes by, in which my mind doesn't slip away to those days on the Sabalo.

Apologies

This issue was meant to be broadcast by 1 April, but life got in the way. As soon as it goes out, I'll start on the next one. I hope it will be more timely.

Thanks for your continuing support of the Sabalo Association. I hope you'll contact an old buddy today.

ARE YOU A.W.O.L. ?

The list has shrunk some, now 78. No sense wasting time and space including it again. By now you either know who you are, or don't read Clever Boy. The dead are excused.

Sabalo Sailing List Stats -as of 16 Jun23	
Total shipmates listed	1453
Known Deceased	876
Known USPS address	327
Receives Clever Boy by email or hard copy & contact since Jul 2018	188
AWOL- Known address but Not heard from since July 2018	78
Known address but has declined or does not receive Clever Boy	63
Lost Contact—last known address NG & unable to relocate	12
Never located / Lost Contact	249

Marking Time

*The trouble is
You think you have time
... Budda*



The best part of getting older is ...
Nothing !!
Getting older sucks.

ONE WAY TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE OLD IS TO FALL DOWN IN FRONT OF A LOT OF PEOPLE. IF THEY LAUGH, YOU'RE STILL YOUNG. IF THEY PANIC AND START RUNNING TO YOU, YOU'RE OLD.

COVID LINGERS

See page 13 for personal experience



A Man and a Woman—

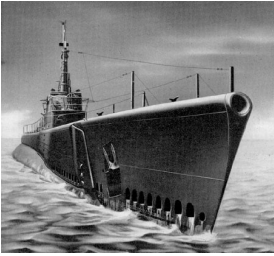
Guys—I need your help...I'm right in the middle of an argument and she told me I'm right. What do I do next ??

A married man's honest confession:

“I always read my wife's horoscope to see what kind of day I'm going to have.”

THE REAL TRUTH—

MY WIFE IS GREAT! WE HAD 51ST ANNIVERSARY ON 20 MAY—[ed.]



THE OLD BOATS

USS Albacore SS-218, World War II submarine lost at sea for almost 80 years, found off coast of Japan

16 Feb 2023—Naval historians confirmed a shipwreck site off the coast of Hokkaido, Japan, as the USS Albacore (SS-218), which was lost at sea Nov. 7,

1944, after striking a mine. All 85 crew members, were killed in the explosion. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2023/03/04/world-war-ii-sub-uss-albacore-wreckage-japan/11398088002/>

& w/pics:

<https://news.usni.org/2023/02/20/wreck-of-wwii-submarine-uss-albacore-discovered-off-japan>



Richard O’Kane -The most successful submarine

commander ever was captured by the Japanese

<https://www.werehemighty.com/mighty-history/submarine-commander-captured-by-the-japanese/>

Not mentioned in the above article are the names of the other escapees of the self-destructed Tang. The details of the accident have been mentioned in past issues of Clever Boy.

Lawrence Savadkin., LT on Tang escaped when she went down. He later was Sabalo’s CO during 1951-53.

A story postponed (twice) from past issues

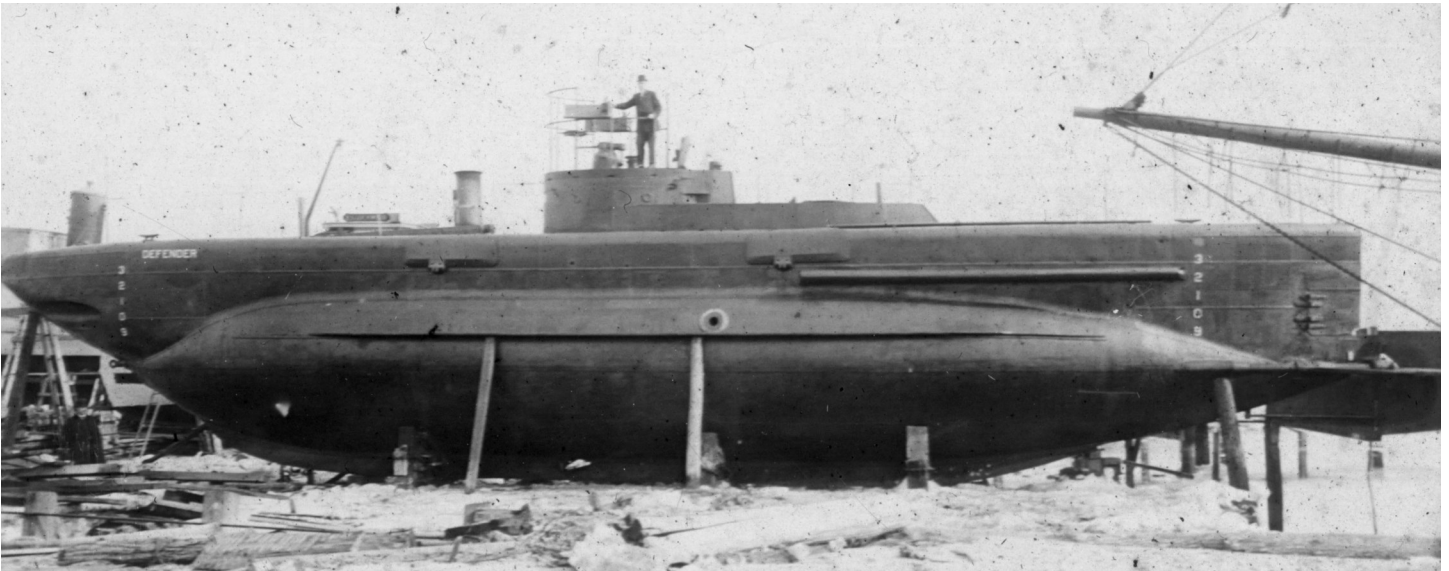
A tale told by CO Larry Savadkin about a post-war visit he made to Japan. [My recount is third-hand. –ed.]

It was related to me that Savadkin retained some hatred for the Japanese from poor treatment of POW’s. At some point he contacted some Japanese [not sure what position they held] who he had accompany him to the wooden buildings where the Tang survivors and many others were held. These Japanese vehemently denied this was a POW facility because it was a bunch of broken down buildings and without services.

Savadkin was able to correctly orient himself and find the location because there were high-tension electric lines running overhead that had towers with a particular kind of construction. Something etched in his memory from looking out the window each day and seeing them.

The Japanese accompanying him still denied this was the location of his prison camp. But to further prove he was positive, he took them inside the building where he was kept. And the final proof came when he took up a floor board and there was the ultimate revelation. Some parcels from U.S. CARE packages were found where he had stowed them during his captivity. Also, some explanation of **Omori prison camp pics** where Savadkin was kept prisoner –see:

http://www.warfish.com/tang/scrap5_t.html



Divers find wreckage of century old sub “hiding in plain sight” - 16 April 2023—Connecticut recreational divers have discovered the wreckage of an experimental submarine that was built in **1907** and later scuttled in Long Island Sound. Originally named the *Lake*, she was built by millionaire Simon Lake and his Bridgeport-based Lake Torpedo Boat Company in hopes of winning a competition for a U.S. Navy contract .The Defender was an experimental vessel, with wheels to move along the sea bottom and a door that allowed divers to be released underwater. The company lost that competition and Lake then tried refitting the boat for minesweeping, salvage and rescue work, **renaming it the Defender**. But he never found a buyer. It was a well-known sub and was even visited by Amelia Earhart in 1929. The ship has some protections under what is known as the [Abandoned Shipwreck Act](#), a 1988 law that would allow it to be treated as an archaeological or historical site instead of a commercial property to be salvaged. Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/submarine-wreckage-long-island-sound-divers-defender/>



Movie Night in the After Battery

Best War Movies Streaming Right Now on Netflix

All Quiet on the Western Front
Top Gun
Apocalypse Now Redux
12 Strong
Darkest Hour
Forrest Gump
Da 5 Bloods
Sand Castle

Outlaw King
The Woman King
Five Came Back
Medal of Honor
Shooter
Age of Samurai: Battle for Japan
Valor
Treason

Follow this link for a short review and a trailer.

<https://www.military.com/off-duty/movies/best-war-movies-netflix.html>

KUMANDER LIWAYWAY*—*How a Beauty Queen, Turned Philippine Guerrilla; Avenged Her Father's Death in World War II* - See story & trailer for Kumander Liwayway's story depicted in the 2021 short film, "**Beauty Queen.**". The full movie, in Tagalog with subtitles was released in 2018

*[Remedios Gomez-Paraiso (1919 – May 15, 2014), a nurse, known primarily as Kumander Liwayway, was a commander for the Huk Rebellion. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kumander_Liwayway]

<https://www.military.com/history/how-beauty-queen-turned-guerrilla-avenged-her-fathers-death-world-war-ii.html>

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iarcSzu4KTQ>

Submarine D-1 1937 1 hr 38 mins

The story line from various sites: Navy officers and crew (Pat O'Brien, Wayne Morris) bring a submarine from Long Island to San Diego via the Panama Canal. Two sailors fight for a woman's affection on land and fight to keep alive when their submarine dies in deep waters. Butch Rogers and Sock McGillis are old submarine hands stationed in Panama. On land, Butch and Sock battle over pretty Ann Sawyer. At sea and underwater, however, our two heroes are inseparable. USS Pensacola is struck during a last dive drill, there is an attempt to rescue. The USS Dolphin (D-1) and her crew depart from Connecticut to San Diego via the Panama Canal. They come into troubles. More Info: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0029617/>

DVD avail online for less than \$10—Recommended by Gary Ferguson SK3(SS) '68-69



READER'S PUKA—*There was a time when one could use the excuse. "The dog ate my homework.", when you didn't have a book report ready for homework. In this case, it must be my cats. Now have 7. Before you think I'm a cat nut, I must explain. One wandered in a couple years ago and we adopted him—a find gentleman, all-black short hair we had fixed. Last year another (people keep dumping them off on the road) a female, gray tiger color. Then another black one that had been hanging out at the neighbors came around and knocked up the female before we got her tamed enough to catch her and get to the vet. As it works in nature, bingo, we now have four 9 week old kittens. Their father isn't allowed inside, and not very tame, so is a porch cat. Must have been one of the 6 inside cats that ate the book reports.*

*** *Anyone want a kitten?*



🌀 **Surfin' Submariner**

OPTITRONICS—*'Ain't got no stinkin' periscope'* - 1st part of this explores how today's boats get "a sweep around". <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=LPM54qHtN0Y>

When snorkeling goes wrong ??? The first 4:40 of this vid is about a Chinese sub that had a total crew fatal accident. The remainder is about deep sea diving accidents. https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=oYxi56_5-l

Read more about **Chinese submarine 361**: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_submarine_361

& <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/reboot/chinese-submarine-crew-lost-all-oxygen-and-suffocated-death-186567>

TASK & PURPOSE—*A comprehensive site with all kinds of military news, gear reviews, history and more—lots to see.* <https://taskandpurpose.com/>

→ **What the foreign Navies are doing**

AUKUS—Former Australian PM Says Subs 'Worst Deal in All History' 15 Mar 2023 “Keating said on Wednesday that his country’s recently announced agreement to obtain three nuclear-powered submarines from the U.S. “must be the worst deal in all history.”

“The only way the Chinese could threaten Australia or attack it is on land. That is, they bring an armada of troop ships with a massive army to occupy us,” Keating said at a National Press Club event, according to The Associated Press. “This is not possible for the Chinese to do.” *[how naïve?! –ed.]*

He called the agreement, expected to cost Canberra between 268 billion and 368 billion Australian dollars, or \$178 billion and \$245 billion, the worst international decision by the Australian Labor Party in more than 100 years. Keating led the party in the early 1990s.

“The idea that we need American submarines to protect us,” he said, adding, “Three are going to protect us from the might of China. Really? I mean, the rubbish of it. The rubbish.” <https://thehill.com/policy/international/3900941-former-australian-pm-on-submarine-deal-with-us-it-must-be-the-worst-deal-in-all-history/>

Both Russia and China have attempted to develop aircraft carriers. China has 3, but this report will only mention the Russian carrier Admiral Kuznetsov, the only one they have. Both navy’s ‘experiment’ is with bow ramp launching flight decks as opposed to catapult systems used by the 11 U.S. carriers. Bow ramps have been inefficient because they don’t work well with heavier aircraft, thus limiting fuel and weapon loads and reducing mission capability. Ck this series of news to see the status.—ed.

Russia’s only aircraft carrier catches fire

22 Dec 2022 Delays and accidents have marred the Admiral Kuznetsov’s ongoing overhaul, which began in 2017 and was initially set to conclude in 2021. At least one person was killed and 12 others were injured after a fire broke out in December 2019. The previous year, a crane crashed onto its deck after a floating dock holding it began to sink, causing unspecified damage. Estimates have been given the Admiral Kuznetsov a return to service in early 2024, almost three years behind schedule. <https://thehornnews.com/russias-only-aircraft-carrier-catches-fire/>

Russia’s Disaster-Plagued Aircraft Carrier Finally Left Its Drydock 21 Feb 2023

The operation to get the carrier out of its drydock began late last December , but the ship is still a ways from actually returning to service.

[[This is a story of how FUBAR Russian Navy fleet operations and preparedness really are. This is a must read on the history of the carrier. In my opinion, there is serious doubt that the Russian economic woes from the Ukraine invasion will ever allow the Kuznetsov to be fully operational.

Story w/pic: <https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/russias->

[disaster-plagued-aircraft-carrier-finally-left-its-drydock](#)

Admiral Kuznetsov: Why Russia's Troubled Lone Aircraft Carrier May Never Sail Again 2 Jun 2023

[Tactical limitations] “Even if Russia’s Naval ambitions were more regional in nature, meaning largely restricted to the Black Sea and an ability to intimidate NATO allies along its border such as Bulgaria and Romania, its sole carrier would seem ill-equipped to exact any kind of substantial combat impact.”

“There is also the question as to whether the ship will even return at all, as numerous reports on the carrier such as one from Pravda, say the ship’s metal structures and third deck are almost entirely corroded.”

“Ship repairmen warned the military that the condition of does not allow it to be deployed due to the high probability that it would sink or capsize. During the examination, it was revealed that the metal structures below the third deck of the ship were significantly corroded. The holds are filled with muddy water, which makes it impossible to examine the ship in detail from the inside,” the [Pravda paper states](#).”

<https://wariormaven.com/russia-ukraine/admiral-kuznetsov-russias-troubled-lone-aircraft-carrier-may-never-sail-again>

WOES OF A NUKE BOAT SAILOR

The time machine: How life on a Navy submarine distorts your sense of space and time

Nothing prepared me for what life is like underwater:

"I spent 18 months in training before reporting to my first submarine. I learned a lot about damage control, sonar, electronics, and how to distinguish a sperm whale from a humpback whale. But nothing prepared me for the disconnection from Earth that distorted my perception of time while submerged."

<https://taskandpurpose.com/opinion/navy-submarine-perception-time-space/>

Why the First Nuclear Sub Had to Stop for Auto Parts Before a Secret Mission

The night before departing on its secret mission, Operation Sunshine, a condenser unit was leaking and threatened the entire mission.

You can't just send a bunch of sailors out to any old auto parts store to get materials to repair your new, game-changing nuclear submarine. Cmdr. William Anderson, Nautilus' captain, also couldn't call attention to the issue through the usual channels due to security concerns. Somewhere along the way, however, someone aboard the sub figured out they could just use *Bar's Leaks*, a popular automotive product for leaking radiators, on the condenser unit.

Read more: <https://www.military.com/history/why-first-nuclear-sub-had-stop-auto-parts-secret-mission.html>

A simple analytical question regarding the idiotic idea of shutting down the oil industry... How many tooth brushes can be made from sunlight and wind???

VA LINKS

These are shown as clickable links in the online issue. If you need the URL, send me an eml. –ed.

- ⇒ [2020 VA Agent Orange Newsletter](#)
- ⇒ [Check the status of a disability claim you have filed](#)
- ⇒ [VietNam-era deck logs](#)
- ⇒ [Blue Water Navy Association](#)

VETERAN'S DISCOUNTS

<https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/85765/veteran-discounts-available-year-round/>

More links: [North Face](#); [Outback](#); [HomeDepot](#) & 16 Companies with Military Discounts on Mattresses

<https://www.military.com/discounts/companies-offer-sweet-military-discounts->



VA NEWS

Your 2023 State Veteran Benefits

Everyone knows about the federal benefits available to veterans, but many states also offer great benefits to their veterans? State benefits range from free college and employment resources to free hunting and fishing licenses. Most states also offer tax breaks for their veterans and specialized license plates, and some states even provide their veterans with cash bonuses just for serving in the military.

Check this link for a handy summary of the benefits each state and territory offers.

<https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/state-veterans-benefits-directory.html>

Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 & PACT Act of 2022

[Recently I sent a letter to those shipmates who were aboard during the '68-69 WesPac. A few responses indicate that maybe some guys aren't aware of disability benefits instituted over the past few years. The BWN Act and the PACT Act have widely expanded coverage. Ck it out or call me if you're interested.– ed.]

Pact Act "Any U.S. or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from January 9, 1962, through June 30, 1976,"

There's no deadline to apply for PACT Act benefits. But if you file your PACT Act claim—or quickly submit your intent to file—by August 9, 2023, you may receive benefits backdated to August 10, 2022. So don't wait, apply today.

<https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/blue-water-navy.asp>

<https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>

https://www.va.gov/Blue_Water_Navy_FAQs.pdf

Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans and Agent Orange Exposure

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/blue-water-veterans.asp>

To Stay Abreast of All Vet Resources you can subscribe to this e-newsletter—CK IT OUT

<https://news.va.gov/vetresources/>

[Veterans Integrated Services Networks \(VISNs\) - Veterans Health Administration](#)—Main Pg

& [another link to MAP of the 21 coverage areas](#)

ABOUT VA HEALTHCARE-VISN 4

VA Healthcare—VISN 4 is a fully integrated network of 9 VA campuses, 44 outpatient clinics, 1 mobile clinic, and 17 vet centers covering 83 counties in Pennsylvania and Delaware and parts of Ohio, West Virginia, New York and New Jersey.

In fiscal year 2021, VISN 4 served 319,939 Veterans from across the Nation. With an operating budget of more than \$2.9 billion and a staff of 16,072, VISN 4 is working hard to transform toward personalized, proactive, patient-driven health care.

[About VISN 4](#)

APPLY FOR VA HEALTH CARE

VA health care covers care for your physical and mental health. This includes a range of services from checkups to surgeries to home health care. It also includes prescriptions and medical equipment.

[Apply now!](#)

**MAILBAG**

[rank/rating as aboard, may have diff later]

1 Dec 22 Eml fm **Alan Volbrecht FTG3(SS) '68-69**
Hey Jeff, Hope all is well with you & family. All good here. Regards, Alan

2Dec22 eml fm **John LeConte EM3(SS) '67-68**

I'm still here. I live in Santa Barbara now. I have heart issues but I'm still north of the flower garden.

So sorry to hear Of Doc Davis' passing. He was a good guy. The most enduring memory I have of Doc, other than his infectious smile, was how severely he was beaten up in Subic one night. He was in his bunk for two weeks.

2Dec22 eml fm **Earl Meggison ETN3(SS) '60-62** I
Qualified on Sabalo, in 1960 as an ETN3. Total Navy Enlistment; 1959 to 1965.

In Civilian life I was an executive at AT&T for 25 Years, with special assignments with Government Communications, NASA's Apollo, Russia and SkyLab Programs and Headquarters.

Today. I am a 81 Year old, Disabled Veteran and a Member of the Tang Base sub Vets, based at Tampa Fl. Your work in keeping our shipmates connected has been "outstanding" and I appreciate receiving the "Clever Boy" (NXYO) newsletters.

The Sabalo crews were the finest in the Navy! I wish we could visit her today... Regards, Earl Meggison

6Dec22 note w/donation fm **Robaert Vincent TM3(SS) '60-62**—"I do enjoy reading the newsletter, but it's sad to recognize names of shipmates who have passed. Thanks so much for doing this.

12Dec22 ltr fm **Donald Piragis EM3(SS) '63-64**—First, I want to thank you and Ron (R.I.P.) for the work you both have done on the 'Tomato Basket'. I enjoy the newsletter a lot.

Sorry to hear of the passing of Captain Jess Lee Cariker, Jr. in March and also TCMC(SS) Edward Kreager. These two men were my captain and COB when I was on Sabalo in 1963-64. I went through the yard period and was transferred off along with 20 others before Sabalo went to WesPac.

CO Cariker and COB Kreager were excellent leaders and fine men. Even though a lot of years have passed, I haven't forgotten my time in the Navy and especially on submarines, and the men that were our leaders.

I wish all Sabalo shipmates a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

15Dec22 telcon recd Re: **Al Thurlow IC3(SS) '60-62** fm daughter Tracey reporting his death.

Al fought a hard fight with heart disease, dementia and Parkinson's disease, and then not too long before he passed had a bout with COVID. Although he more or less recovered from the virus, his Parkinson's was ruled the final blow.

Mailbag cont. next pg

BINNACLE LIST *Send your health reports so shipmates can know how you're doing.*

Ltr recd** fm **Larry 'Ernie' Hall, EN2(SS) '66-68**
dated 22 Jan 22

Greetings & Salutations

First and foremost, I take this opportunity to nominate you 'Keeper Of The Flame'. It only follows due diligence on your unending efforts to maintain the lines of communication. I personally commend you. I knoweth not the magnitude of your time and efforts. You may consider this letter proof. F.Y.I., This letter may also be the last. I have no way of knowing how much time I have left. I have been under hospice care for over 4 months.

[sic] ...*"for some 60 2/3 years [?] - 77 years interest is quite a time. I guess you can tell my cognizance—spelling, etc, has taken a nose dive. But I will persevere as all of us are like to do."* [sic]

Update 9 March. *After numerous attempts to make contact, (he wasn't answering his cell phone) Harold Losby was finally able to contact Larry's wife, Nadja who reported that Larry was admitted to the hospital the previous day, 8 March He has stage 4 colon cancer.*

** Also recd with Ernie's note was about 20 sheets of stamps—some a number of years old. He must have collected extra sheets and held onto them. He didn't explain. Some may have additional value. I will check it out before using them for regular postage.

Update- Msg recd 15 Mar 2023

Fm: Fred Wilson - fwwilson750@yahoo.com

Re: EN2 Ernest Larry Hall. SS302

I wanted to let you be aware that my brother is on Eternal Patrol as of March 13 2023. It is my intention to have his memory in place at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Fernley Nevada. As with all submariners he spoke well of his days in the late 60s onboard the Sabalo. He never became proficient with the internet but he valued his hard copies [of CB] in the past.

Editor's note:

I get thanks and accolades from Sabalo guys numerous times. It makes me have pride and also humility to receive such comments. I rarely reprint that part of men's email and notes. In Ernie's case I am filled with emotion — That he would think of his Sabalo brothers in his last times.

It is my pleasure to bring together old shipmates. Thank you all who have expressed appreciation over the years.

Jeff


MAILBAG


12 Dec 22 fm **Harry Day ETR2(SS) '64-67** Many thanks for the inclusion of "My Boat"!!! I will put it in a larger frame with a picture I have of the USS Sabalo at sea [It's a 12 x 14 enlargement of the picture used on the Christmas Cards we sent out when I was aboard her.] I received a call from an old shipmate last week that read "My Boat". His name is **Noel Adam**. He lives in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. We chatted for awhile about the 64-65 trip to West-Pac. He was aboard Sabalo (Lead Yeoman, I believe.) in '64-65 when we were in West-Pac and went through the Hurricane (State 5 Sea) that hit Japan. We both remember Sabalo taking a large roll and hanging there for a long period of time!! We kept saying to ourselves, "A submarine is designed and made with 2/3 of the ship below the waterline; thus, it will self-correct any list less than 90 degrees to Port or Starboard"!!! This roll really put that theory to the test!! We were elated when it finally did right itself!

I think I will read December's CB again and click onto some of the links you have included [It's rather interesting the articles you included about the Russian and Chinese Submarines. I do wonder what the future holds!!] Look forward to your communications in the future!

27 Dec 22 **Robert Gersna EM3** wrote: > Hello Jeff. I am still on this side of the grass, but one leg is knee deep.

eml fm Gloria Ryan 28 Dec 2022 **Jerry Ryan SO3(SS) '56-58** is still among the living and doing well. He turned 84 last September. He still enjoys reading the newsletters. He is able to view them online just fine.

11Jan23 eml fm **Lee Clark LCDR '68-69...** "still around and kicking (but losing my aim). I spend great amounts of time on that famous road that's paved with good intentions - but seem to have more trouble getting stuff done. Always happy to see Clever Boy arriving, and I marvel at your tenacity and literary skills which are clearly seen in every issue! Thank you, shipmate, for all the devotion and hard work you have poured into keeping your fellow submariners informed and entertained! You have established yourself as the Prime Historian and scribe for the sailors who shared the honor and the fun of serving in Sabalo! This is, quite frankly, remarkable - and much appreciated (and vastly uncompensated)! Thanks again. Fair winds and following seas."

11Jan23 Telcon w/ **Paul J. O'Reilly EN3(SS) '62-63** - swapped a few tales about Honolulu, Seattle & the Portland Rose Festival. His visits were at different times, but we could associate with events and commonalities.[ed.]

17Jan23 note recd from **Vern Roemmich YN2(SS) '66-69** —"As years go by and faces and names blur, it is nice to read something about them. Sorry to hear about Doc Davis.."

Eml fm **Pat Byers EN3(SS) '68-70** 17 Mar 23 Thanks Jeff I sure do remember [Ernie Larry Hall]. Sorry to see shipmates starting to pass, I myself am under going Chemo so one never really knows, I am hopeful, it is what it is. My condolences to the Hall family. He sure was a nice guy and great shipmate.

[Re medical problems] I have not consulted with VA. I drew a unique cancer a one in a million, it's called Angio Sarcoma. Very rare and aggressive. No idea how I got it, I have had excellent health my whole life until whenever this developed. They think they got it in time, last MRI says it didn't spread but it's at the very corner and under my right eye. The Chemo treatments have shrank it a lot, but the staff at Huntsville Cancer Center out of Salt Lake think Surgery is now the best chance. I had one already and removed what they could up to the eye. It's a complicated surgery but I have confidence in surgeon. You said you believe yours was due to Ancient Orange but I don't remember me being exposed to that. Hope your cancers are gone for good, only us Cancer patience can fully understand what it fully means to have the big C.

23Mar23 eml fm **Dave Manning EN3(SS) '68-69**—I'm doing well, still working a couple days a week at the Steel mill that I have worked at from 1966 till now except for my stint in the Navy.

16Jun23 Eml recd —My father was a crew member on the Sabalo during the 1950s. His name was **John Savela [SN(SS) '52-53]**. He recently passed away on May 23, 2023. He left me instructions to notify you so you can update the roster. Thank you, Eva Savela evasavela@gmail.com

After I wrote what appears in the "Reader's Puka" I found this—serve S.O.S. to all your friends [ed.]:

SUBMARINE CUISINE by Edward Monroe-Jones (Author), Robert Brown (Contributor)

publ by Submarine Research Center - Bangor, WA May 21, 2020

"*Submarine Cuisine*" is a fascinating collection of genuine recipes from the galleys of the subs of the US Navy. For submariners facing long dangerous patrols in crowded conditions, mealtimes are one of their few pleasures, and US Navy submarines enjoy the reputation of serving the best food in the fleet! These authentic recipes have been contributed by veteran submariners whose service experiences range from World War Two 'pig boats' to patrols on modern day ballistic missile submarines. To assist the home cook, these recipes have been adjusted for smaller quantities, so you won't have to cook for a boatload of hungry submariners - unless you want to! Along with delicious recipes, "Submarine Cuisine" features fascinating stories of what it's really like to be a member of the 'Silent Service'. This book will provide hours of enjoyment to both the adventurous home chef and the naval buff. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of each book will be donated to the USO.

[Available on Amazon: Kindle \\$6.19 or Paperback \\$10.99](#)

RECENT TELCONS (

▶ 12 Jun 23 **Pete Ouellette & Rita**—He gets 100% VA Disability due to Agent Orange. His exposure was determined from visit to Sattahip, Thailand [other reports are that a SpecOp had them near NVN] during the 1970 WesPac. His conditions are: Coronary Heart disease; Ischemic heart disease; & diabetes.

▶ 13 Jun 23 **Brian (Baumruk) Collins**—now living in Oregon rpts he has prostate cancer and is pursuing a VA claim.

▶ 13Jun23 Re: **Joe Lyons**- fm wife Mary - he died 7 Feb 23 lung cancer, diabetes, dementia

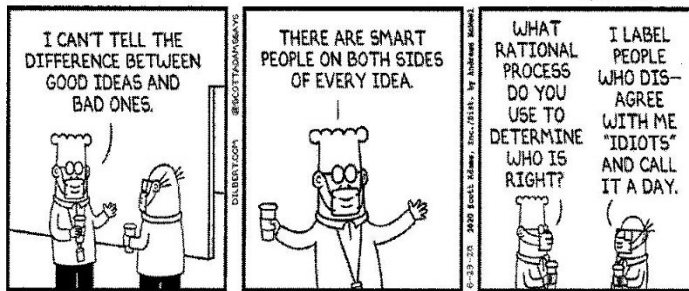
▶ 16Jun 23 **Gary Ferguson** rpts he had prostate cancer 19 yrs ago; surgical removal; now cancer free

▶ 15 Jun 23 **Don Nelson** is getting 70% disability for multiple conditions.

▶ 10 Jun 23 **Ron VanNest** rpts he had open heart surgery and other serious problems; is doing well presently

DILBERT

By Scott Adams



ON THE SUBJECT OF—BEEN THERE—DONE THAT

Claustrophobia

You have probably all had someone ask you about claustrophobia, or heard "I could never go inside such a small space", when it becomes known you served in subs.

I wonder if guys who drive tanks or ride in Bradleys and Humvees get similar statements. They sure are much smaller environments, and they don't have a galley or head.

During quals a now unknown torpedoman told me I would have to go inside a torpedo tube to be sure I knew what is in there. Once inside, he shut the door.

I usually relate the experience to questioning 'landlubbers', not only because of the tightness in a 21" diameter tube, laying on your belly, with the dank stink of sea water and grease, but because of the complete darkness. Unlike many confinements in small places, there is zero light of any kind. [-ed.]

988

Veterans Crisis Line

988, this three-digit number is used to access both the National Suicide Hotline and Veterans Crisis Line. Veterans can also call the Veterans Crisis Line directly, at 877-267-6030, or call any VA facility and press 7 to reach the Veterans Crisis Line.

VCL text messaging (838255) and Live Chat are also available.

Nautical Terminology — What is HOGGING?

The terms "hogging", "hogged" and "hog" refer to the sagging of the bow and stern of a ship relative to its midships section. A ship that has experienced hogging is said to be hogged. Instead of showing a flat, level hull line, a hogged ship is "curved", with the bow and stern lower than the center of the ship.

Hogging is generally found in older wooden vessels, due to the natural weaknesses in their structure. However, a small degree of hog is not unheard of in iron and steel ships. Hogging occurs because the bow and stern of the ship, while carrying a considerable amount of heavy equipment, possess relatively little buoyancy. The center of the ship, on the other hand, possesses a great deal of buoyancy and may be quite light-weight if the ship is not loaded with heavy cargo or ballast. This unequal distribution of forces, with great weights but little buoyancy fore and aft, and little weight but great buoyancy amidships, leads to deformation of the hull.

“I am living proof that a picture speaks a thousand words.”

Raquel Welch, Actress 1940-2023

8 Popular Cruise Lines That Offer Military Discounts

— In case you didn't get enough sea time —

1. Margaritaville at Sea
2. Carnival Cruise Line
3. Norwegian Cruise Line
4. Disney Cruise Line
5. Celebrity Cruises
6. Princess Cruises
7. Royal Caribbean
8. MSC Cruises

<https://www.military.com/discounts/cruise-line-military-discounts.html>

[Details vary and the listing for some of them doesn't mention "veterans", just active or retired, so investigation is necessary if you're going crusin'.—ed,]

SHIP'S STORE

Sabalo Patch

\$ 11 inc 1st Class Mail



Battle Flag Posters—\$25

includes shipping (16 1/2" x 21" fits std 16x20 frame) - **a number of you guys asked for these, so please let me hear from you now that I spent money to get them !**

— https://usssabalo.org/Ship's_Store.html See web site for current items available. If you are looking for something specific, not on the web site, please contact me.



WUHAN VIRUS NEWS -

Thank you Wuhan and Fauci. I'm sure the 900 million Chinese infected are pleased that the evil virus you developed is working so well.

From the editor:

We both had 3 shots of vaccine, She had Pfizer and I had Moderna thinking one might work, but It finally caught up to us.

Paula and I starting having symptoms about 11 Nov and we both tested positive with the home tests, We called right away and got on Paxlovid . I did 5 days and Paula took it 3 before side effects were too much. It didn't seem to do anything, and after 3 weeks we still had moderate lasting problems. Things began to subside, and we thought we were getting over it, until just before Xmas, Paula had a tougher time because of her lymphoma and immune compromised condition. But we both never really got loose of it.

In worse condition, Paula went to hospital on th 28th of Dec and was given IV antibiotics suspecting it might be pneumonia, but without any actual test results to prove what was causing her lung and breathing problems. Finally, the doc figured it must be viral and said she might as well go home to finish recovery without any meds.

Beginning in December she had 16 days either spiking a fever for short periods or having it last for hours. On 2 Jan she had a temperature of 103.6 - way too high for old folks - And feeling very serious about her condition, she wouldn't let me drive her to the hospital, and called the ambulance. She spent 3 days in the hospital

Meanwhile, my symptoms moderated somewhat, but Paula was again prescribed Paxlovid in February by her on-cologist and did the whole five days of pills this time.

The total time we felt symptoms was almost 4 months..

While she was in the emergency room, a man was continually talking loudly with his cell phone. He kept saying, "I'm 302-ing myself" to whomever it was on the call. My wife later asked one of the nurses what does it mean to '302 your self'. 'It is a hospital code for being admitted to the psychiatric ward', she was told.

So there you have it. We are all whacky from being "302-ed"

*** This COVID's nasty. Get checked right away if you have any of the classic cold or flu stuff. It could be whatever strain of the COVID is still floating around.**

USA Cumulative Cases: 102,247,392; Deaths: 1,111,342

Daily Cases (7-Day Rolling Average) as of 7 Mar 2023: Cases: 32,547; Deaths: 313.9 —That means alot more than 300 deaths per week were attributed to the disease in earlier times.

* * * *

ON THE SUBJECT OF WOKE B.S. —

NOW HERE'S THE MAXIMUM OF MILITARY WOKE —

Who Will be the next Chief of Naval Operations?

From *American Thinker* 2 May 2023 by Brent Ramsey

"Last September, the Navy promoted and installed a new Vice Chief of Naval Operations. Then Vice Admiral Lisa Franchetti got her 4th star and was appointed to the second-highest position in the Navy. Now after a scant seven months, the betting line going around D.C. is that she will likely be the next CNO based on the identity politics track record of President Biden."...

"Adm. Franchetti is a journalism graduate of Northwestern University NROTC, a non-STEM degree which itself is unusual, as the Navy strongly favors STEM degrees for officers. She has a Master's Degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix, an online university. Her biography does not mention any war college credential."

Read more: https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2023/05/who_will_be_the_next_chief_of_naval_operations.html

Beards in the Military Don't Help with 'Kicking the Enemy's Ass

The military's top enlisted adviser told other senior leaders this week that he was against beards in uniform -- even with religious waivers for facial hair -- because they have nothing to do with being lethal and can hurt unit identity.

Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Ramon "CZ" Colon-Lopez, the senior enlisted adviser to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, gave his rebuke of more progressive shaving policies on a Facebook livestream alongside Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Joanne Bass and Space Force Chief Master Sergeant Roger Towberman during the Air and Space Force Association's Warfare Symposium on Wednesday morning.

"So, if you want to look cute with your skinny jeans and your beard, by all means do it someplace else. But quit wasting our time on something that doesn't have anything to do with kicking the enemy's ass," Colon-Lopez said.

Colon-Lopez also said he "was opposed to the religion exemption for beards" because there should be an "expectation of people to put their personality aside for the betterment of the team."

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/09/beards-military-dont-help-kicking-enemys-ass-top-enlisted-adviser-says.html>

VA to Change Motto, Switching to Gender-Neutral Language that Recognizes All Who Have Served

The VA is dropping a motto it adopted 64 years ago in favor of language that critics argued marginalized female veterans and military families, leading to unequal treatment. [an unsubstantiated claim]

The new, more inclusive statement will be: "**To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers and survivors.**"

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/16/va-change-motto-switching-gender-neutral-language-recognizes-all-who-have-served.html>

Military Moves to Cut Suicides, But Defers Action on Guns

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered a number of improvements in access to mental health care to reduce suicides in the military, but held off on endorsing more controversial recommendations to restrict gun and ammunition purchases by young troops, sending them to another panel for study.

An independent committee in late February recommended that the Defense Department implement a series of gun safety measures, including waiting periods for the purchase of firearms and ammunition by service members on military property and **raising the minimum age for service members to buy guns and ammunition to 25.**

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/16/military-moves-cut-suicides-defers-action-guns.html>

Republicans Use Spending Bill to Block VA Policies

13 Jun 2023 Military.com | By [Rebecca Kheel](#)

"House Republicans moved Tuesday to block the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) from providing abortion services, flying LGBTQ+ pride flags at its facilities, and providing gender-affirmation surgery or hormones to transgender veterans."

Read more: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/06/13/va-barred-abortion-services-flying-pride-flags-transgender-health-care-under-gop-bill.html>

And then there's this:

Pride Counts at VA
Celebrating, Honoring, Serving, the Veteran You Are.



On Eternal Patrol



SAILORS
REST YOUR OAR



Butzer, Joseph W., d.31 Jan 2023, ag 86, Reading, PA; was EN3(SS) in 302 Feb56-Jun58
Obit: <https://memorials.kuhnfuneralhomes.com/joseph-butzer/3594326/>

Crawford, Donald Rex, d. 10 Mar 2023, ag 84, Clarkston, WA, was FN on 302 Dec56-Oct57; later MM3 (never qualified)

Glasser, Robert Vincent, d.2 Aug 2020, ag 77, Omaha, NE; was EN3(SS) in 302 Jul65-Jul66
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/215142716/robert-vincent-glasser>

Hall, Ernest Lawrence, d. 13 Mar 2023, ag 76, Sparks, NV; was EN2(SS) on 302 Sep66-?69
Obit w/pic: <https://www.rgj.com/obituaries/rgj050224>

Hamilton, Charles Rayford, II, d.2 Aug 1999, ag 52, Aberdeen, MD; was QM3(SS) on 302 Jun67-May68; later reported as QMC(SS). (Note: Recent research indicates this probable d.o.d. with burial at sea Groton, CT) see: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/42716227/person/19823234399/facts>

Horton, Ned Raymond, d. 13 Oct 2020, ag 85, Aromas, CA; was TM2(SS) on 302 Aug53-Oct56

Lyons, Joseph Earl, d. 7 Feb 2023, ag 74, Spring Grove, VA, lung cancer, diabetes, dementia, was EMFN(SS) on 302 May68-Oct69 Obit: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/joseph-lyons-obituary?id=43790180>

Rennell, Robert Joseph, d. 5 May 2023, ag 91, AnnArbor, MI, USNA '54, was LT on 302; later LCDR
Obit: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/robert-rennell-obituary?id=51832060>

Riedell, Warren Allen, d. 26 Apr 2022, ag 83 , Colorado Springs, CO, was TM3(SS) on 302 Dec57-Feb61, USSVI-HC

Ruden, Peter Mapes, d. 8 Dec 2022, ag 83. Napa, CA, was EN2(SS) on 302 May60-Dec60; later ENCM(SS) & then CWO2, Ret.

Savela, John E., Jr., d.23 May 2023, ag 89, Brea, CA, was SN(SS) on 302 Jun52-Jul53, USSVI-HC

Schachterle , Conrad Roy, d. 29 Apr 2022, ag 81, Hilmar, CA, was ETR3(SS) on 302 Dec60-Dec61, later ETC(SS), Ret. 1973 Obit w/pic: <https://www.allenmortuary.com/obituary/conrad-schachterle/>

Thurlow, Albert J. d. 7 Dec 2022, ag 92, Bremerton, WA, was IC3(SS) in 302 Jul60-Feb62, also was in 311, 396; later ICC(SS), Ret.1985

Williams, Alvin Dean, d.25 Nov 2021, ag 80, Tippiecanoe, IN, was EN2(SS) on 302 Oct64-?65; also served in Cusk, Gudgeon, and Bashaw. Obit: <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/23232445/alvin-dean-williams>

Yost, Benjamin Franklin, d.8 Jan 2020, ag 93, Vallejo, CA; was EN3 abd only 14 days in 302; later EMCM(SS?), Ret. w/30 yrs; bur Sacramento Valey Natl Cem. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/206593535/>



A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know will never sit in.

... ancient Greek proverb



ALL OVER THE NEWS: F.B.I. Arrests National Guardsman in Leak of Classified Documents

... a 21-year-old E3 of the Massachusetts Air National Guard, posted sensitive materials in an online chat group.

One place to read about it if you haven't seen it on the news : <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/13/world/documents-leak-leaker-identity.html>

My first exposure to classified material was on the tin can I rode 9 mos. in Charleston before I was on Sabalo. The electronics officer was a recent grad of USNA, who got in mostly on athletic ability because he could throw the shotput. ((Of the men I have known, probably the one with the highest ratio of chest to waist measurement - tremendous upper body strength.))

Anyhow, he was not a snooty academy type and talked to the ET gang on an even level. He explained what he was taught about classified stuff during his academy exposure on how to handle things. He said that it is true that the Russkies, or whoever is looking for our secrets, knows everything but maybe 3 percent already, and the remaining 3 percent provides little advantage either technically or strategically. Most of what leaks is on purpose as a form of bragging or 'in your face - bet you can't beat this'. The rest gets out as tactics, weapons and materials get used around the world. The theory is that we maintain an edge with that 3 percent, so we have all the procedures and what not for the minions of the armed forces to follow with publications & etc.

Of course, that was in the days long before there was the internet, and there was also very little computer things of any kind. It does seem like something nonsensical that an E3 in the Nat'l Guard would be able to get access to the type of material seen. Is this guy just a dupe for some kind of NSA or CIA idea of how to get Putin to back off before he gets magically vaporized some way ?? Or is it incompetence caused by the administration, or maybe it's a 'deep state' plot?? —ed.

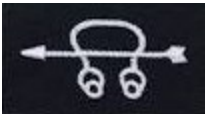


Lot's in the news about stuff flying around Earth or way out in space, but there's this too:

What U.S. Submariners Actually Say About Detection Of So-Called Unidentified Submerged Objects

“...claims regarding U.S. Navy nuclear submarines detecting and even interacting with the underwater equivalent of Unidentified Flying Objects, referred to in UFO circles as USOs, or Unidentified Submerged Objects “

<https://getpocket.com/explore/item/what-u-s-submariners-actually-say-about-detection-of-so-called-unidentified-submerged-objects>



How Submarine Sonarmen Tirelessly Hunt For Enemies They Can't Even See

“Sea environments vary greatly and have an enormous impact on sonar performance. Deep-sea oceans have unique characteristics like deep sound channels that trap noise and allow it to travel for hundreds of miles with very little loss of energy. Littoral areas have freshwater run-offs from rivers and snow melts create vertical sound barriers that reflect your own sound. It's like sailing in a sonic hall of mirrors. Ice caps and marginal ice zones are noisy areas that can mask and reflect sonar signals from moment to moment as you pass beneath ice keels. It's like walking through a forest blindfolded where you can only detect the tree when it's at arm's length.”

<https://getpocket.com/explore/item/how-submarine-sonarmen-tirelessly-hunt-for-enemies-they-can-t-even-see>

On Sabalo, I may have signed off the quals requirement for sonar and radar for more than a dozen men. The exposure to these watch requirements and and systems was minimal and just a basic familiarization. Today's systems are even more complicated with abilities for computer sound analysis and tracking computations.

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE:

Remember, the next time you dislike your life, it's all about perspective.

I have a friend who reads 2-3 books a week, works out twice a day, has no financial worries and has people who want to have sex with him all the time.

And yet he constantly complains about how much he hates prison.



The COVID thing brought on a blitz of hygiene advice about hand sanitation. Here's a review of a some tips. In many cultures it is taught that the left hand is for toilet matters and handling dirty money, known to be germ laden. And likewise, the right hand is used for things requiring an effort to minimize germ exposure such as eating and shaking hands.

Life on the smoke boats broke all the rules. It is a wonderment of sensations that few have experienced. The experience of snorkeling while venting sanitariums inboard is just one forever memory.

LEFT IN THE WAKE

I'd ah Done A Lotta Things Different

— A song by John Conlee <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PvEdDbFZWHg>

From the blog: "...questioning my life, thinking about what I would have done different. What a powerful song. I'm thinking about all the people who aren't here anymore... how I would have told them every single day how much I loved them. Wow... to have that chance would just mean everything."

We have all reached the stage, some a while ago, some recently, where we reflect on life's experiences and how our decisions influenced outcomes. We think of those we loved, and those already passed.

At the current count, more than 60 % of Sabalo vets have gone on Final Patrol. To those who remain, I would like to say thanks for making the Sabalo experience a high point, and thanks to those who supported our fraternity by attending reunions and staying in contact with those with whom you served. It has been my honor to help facilitate.

I think this song will hit home with just about everyone. Hope you will give it a listen. [-ed.]