

# COLUMBUS BASE SUBMARINE VETERANS

Volume 1, Issue 8

September 2005



## THE GREEN BOARD



ALL SEAS ARE NAVIGABLE

## Columbus Base Newsletter

We had a number of reasons for attending the 2005 USSVI National Convention:

**VOTE YES**



**2010**

**NATIONAL  
CONVENTION**

- Win approval for the Cincinnati Base to hold the 2010 National Convention in Northern Kentucky.
  - Publicize the release of our "RED STAR ROGUE" project.
  - Attend one, or more of the 31 boat reunions being held in conjunction with the Convention.
- Represent our Columbus Base and participate in the business meetings held during the week.

The result of our participation left us leaving Kansas, Kansas City, Missouri that is, feeling like we'd traveled down the "Yellow Brick Road".

It all started when we discovered on our arrival that there was a story pertaining to our Columbus Base Shipmate, Ed Ellsworth in the latest publication of *The American Submariner*. That really made us feel good, especially when we learned that the home addressed copies of the magazine were in the process of being mailed to the rest of our shipmates and we could imagine their surprise when they had their chance to read the article.

The next morning, at the Base Commander's Breakfast, we found that a piece written by our Base Vice-Commander, Jim "Clutch" Koogler was published in THE USSVI ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING *Report and Agenda Outline*.

Central Region Director, Art Randall states that he asked Clutch to write a summary of two of the projects that the Columbus Base Supports, which are our "Pens for Patients" and "Coffee Donations" benevolences and he mentions that Clutch's dissertation was subsequently shared among the Central Region Commanders. The article is titled, "From Little Acorns, Huge Oaks Grow" and to our delight it was in the hands of the entire USSVI Chain-of-Command as we read it ourselves.

Included in the *R & A Outline* is a listing of the USSVI awards which were given to us at our August 6<sup>th</sup> Recognition Dinner,

- Central District Two Shipmate of the Year plaque.
- Central District Two Base of the Year plaque.
- Central Region Shipmate of the Year plaque.
- Central Region Base of the Year Runner-up plaque.

Also, our Columbus Base Webmaster, Jake Clark, is given special recognition in the form of sincere and devoted thanks for his maintenance of all the Websites offered by the Central Region.

Toward the end of the Business Meeting two National Awards came our way,

- Class III Base Website of the Year Runner-up plaque.
- Class III Base Newsletter of the Year 5<sup>th</sup> Runner-up plaque shared with another base.

The first recognizes the development, content and management of our Columbus Base WebPages by Jake Clark while the latter honors the achievement of two people, Dave and Jan Creekmore, who volunteered to produce our base newsletter with a disclaimer that went something like, "We haven't done one before and don't know if we really can, but we're willing to try"! Considering that they had only produced two or three copies for the Judge's appraisal and were ranked among the most noteworthy is an honor.

Following the meeting, we were off to the Hyatt Regency Lobby where we went into action assisting two wonderful Ladies from the Northern Kentucky region in promoting the "Vote for the 2010 Convention" and our "Columbus Base Book Sales Project".

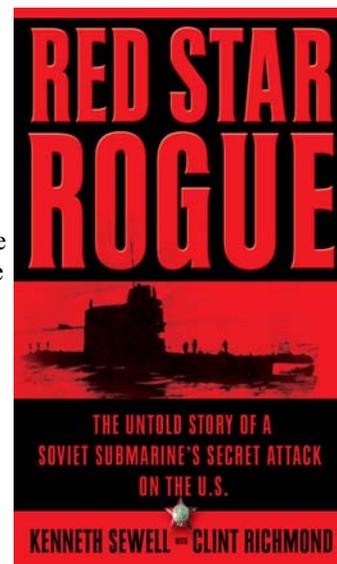
Our limited supply of the pre-release copies of RED STAR ROGUE was sold out within three to four hours.

The following day, actually Friday morning, the long anticipated presentation to obtain the 2010 Convention was held. Ann O'Hara of the Northern Kentucky Convention Bureau, along with Ann Wilson, Director of Sales for the Drawbridge Inn & Convention Center located in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky and assisted by Commander Dick Young of the Cincinnati Base and his associates, Galin Brady and Connie Moore wowed the audience with a most effective production.

Each of the Ladies presented an outlined of their respective commitments which included the playing of a rousing three minute video, followed by some brief comments from Dick Young which were supported by Galin and Connie's operation of a very distinctive electronic message board. We Subvets all knew their giant contraption as our beloved "Christmas Tree" and it along with the sound of a Klaxon roaring an ooka, ooka; ooka certainly got everyone's attention.

Once the applause died down, a couple of questions were answered, followed by a motion to accept the Cincinnati Base's proposal. Following a member's seconding of the motion, the resulting vote was unanimous. No dissenting votes whatsoever.

We had a lengthy list of members from our base at the convention and whether they were all in the room when the vote was taken, it's hard to say. Those we know that were at the Hyatt one time or another were Al Albergottie (with wife, Erma), Bill Anderson, Galin Brady, Paul Darland (wife Karen was along), Bob Frier, Bernie Kenyon, Clutch Koogler,



Bill Meyer, Richard "Doc" Morin (we heard he was in town), Angelo Naso (wife, Cathleen), Paige Ogle, Rick Percy, Phil Philipps (and Opal), Bruce Rinehart (wife, Judy), Ron Waldron (and wife Flossie both in from Florida), plus Dick and Debbie Young. Those who couldn't be there to vote would have seen the following set up in the hotel lobby:

The "Christmas Tree" with L to R: Bill Anderson, Clutch Koogler, Galin Brady, Dick Young, Bernie Kenyon and Connie Moore.

The awards portion of the Saturday Night Banquet agenda produced more surprises for our Base,

- USSVI Golden Anchor Award, 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up
- USSVI Silver Anchor Award, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up

The former honors the membership's contribution to the growth and retention, not only of the Base's roster, but also that of the U.S. Submarine Veterans Organization overall. Whereas, the latter recognizes a base crewmember who channels the will of the membership into an inviting proposition that will inspire his shipmates' acquaintances to join our ranks!



These past twelve months have been exciting ones for our base and for an infant organization like we are to have been judged among longtime established chapters and accorded the recognition we received is a testament to your faith in our objective of working diligently to perpetuate our legacy while helping others along the way. BZ!

Respectfully submitted by Bernie Kenyon

## Red Star Rogue

The Book Sale Committee will be at the business meeting Saturday, September 10th, with several early released copies signed by the author, our own Ken Sewell. The book is just \$22.00 with proceeds of the sale going to the USSVI charities and the Columbus Base treasury.

## OUR CREED

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

# Commander's Corner



Last month the first sentence was “**WOW** what a night for the Columbus Base at our Awards Night.” This month again we have a **WOW WOW**. Great Job **BERNIE**. The things that have happened to our Base.

Jan and Dave Creekmore, what a great job they have done with our newsletter. The committee got our first newsletter not one of the later ones. And we all know that next year we again will be in the top ten but we will be number **ONE**. **Great Job, Jan and Dave.**

Now I can pass on some email that I have been sitting on. From Cdr. Mike Ryan: “Thanks for the updates and I am glad to see all is going well back in my adopted hometown. Great news about Bernie and the newsletter -- I love getting them and keeping current on the action back in Ohio. I wish you the best of luck and look forward to stopping by Columbus and visiting the group”.

From Cdr. Charles Marquez: “Thank you for the email, I enjoy reading the latest news about all the proud Columbus Base vets. Bernie must be pretty excited about his upcoming award-- even better to be presented by COMSUBLANT himself.

I am planning a trip to Columbus 13-16 Oct. and am looking forward to meeting with you. We will be spending some time with the U of Ohio NRTOC unit. We will work out the details over the next few weeks. If you have any recommendations for our visit, don't hesitate to provide them. Below is all the contact information you should need”.

Thanks again,,  
Chas

As you have just seen the Columbus Crew is coming to town. The Navy League will be having a luncheon and here is an email from Bill Hanf of the Navy League: “Jim, Navy League has a luncheon set up for Thursday Oct 13, 1145 Confluence Park Rest. Flyer will go out as well as notice in Anchor Lines. Your people are encouraged to attend”. Bill Hanf

More will come up at our meeting.

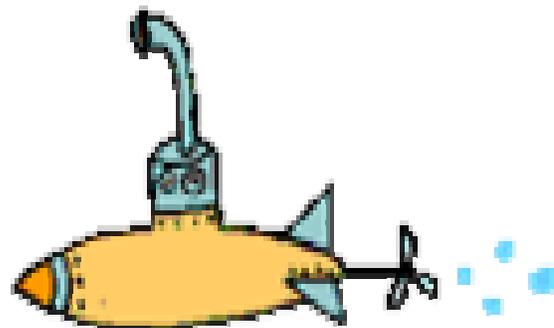
## B Z Guys, Great Job.

Jim Morton

# Lost Boats

## September

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| S-5 (SS 110)          | September 1, 1920  |
| USS Grayling (SS 209) | September 9, 1943  |
| S-51 (SS 162)         | September 25, 1925 |
| USS Cisco (SS 290)    | September 28, 1943 |



## Vice-Commander's Corner

By Vice Commander Jim "Clutch" Koogler

This month's column will be short (yeah... I hear you all cheering out there!). But I wanted to make sure I got a few things covered.

I attended the USSVI National Convention in Kansas City last week. This is the first I've attended... and for those of you who have never gone, please consider doing so in the future. It was a great opportunity to meet many of the people with whom I've corresponded, a great opportunity to meet other submariners from throughout the country, and a great forum for exchanging ideas. It was also an opportunity to meet the national officers and to express opinions about national issues. I think it was well worth my time, effort, and financial expense.

The Columbus Base did exceptionally well at the awards presentations... garnering 4 national awards. We've only been chartered for 19 months, and there are bases that have been chartered for years that have never won ANY national awards. We all know it's not about receiving awards, but it's nice to be recognized. Bernie Kenyon was a runner-up for the Silver Anchor award. The Columbus Base was a runner-up for the Golden Anchor award. Our website was a runner-up for the Website of the Year award. And our newsletter was a runner-up for the Newsletter of the Year award. My congratulations to Bernie, to Jake Clark, to Dave and Jan Creekmore, and to all the members of the base who made it all possible. Add these 4 national awards to the 4 district and regional awards we received last month, and that totals 8 district, regional, and national awards we've received. Not bad for a "newbie". We have a wealth of accomplishments over the past 19 months, and it will be extremely difficult to match or surpass all that we've done.

The only other item I want to cover is the visit by members of the USS Columbus crew. They're due in Columbus Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup> through Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup>. Jim Morton is coordinating opportunities for the Columbus Base to meet with the crew, and I'm sure he'll let us all know what he can get worked out. However, the crew will be attending a Navy League luncheon at Confluence Park restaurant on Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 AM. As more information is available, Jim and Bernie will no doubt distribute it. But mark your calendars to attend if you can. It would be a wonderful reception for the crew if Columbus Base members can turn out in force to greet them.

That's all for this month.

**Don't forget to bring your donations of coffee, tea or hot cocoa for the Veterans Hospital to the meeting on Saturday. We are also collecting "Pens for Patients". You can bring those to the meeting too.**

### New Members

No new members this month

### Editor's Note

If you have comments or articles, please contact the base newsletter editors.

Dave and Jan Creekmore at e-mail

creek636@earthlink.net

## In the Spirit

By David Johnson Base Chaplain

### Mutual Respect

Only a sailor understands a sailor. As I was preparing for discharge in the Fall of 1989, I found myself standing in the Navy Exchange at Norfolk Naval Base. Suddenly marines and Shore Patrol began to secure all the exits and the patrons were told that they could not leave, the Russians were coming. You see, the Cold War was ending and a Russian destroyer was tied up on our piers and they were being given a (propaganda) tour of our facility. I was infuriated. It was bad enough to have 'Ivan' on base, but now my entire afternoon was going to be shot while they looked around OUR exchange; and they were from a sub hunter to boot!! As I observed them passing by in their dress uniforms, my gaze fell upon one in particular. I saw a second class petty officer radioman. This was my opposite number in the Russian navy. Then I noticed he saw me. I'm sure he recognized my insignias the same way I did his, and I'm positive he saw the phins as well (since I puffed out my chest enough to ensure they would be seen). We just stared at each other. He was much younger than I expected. He wore a wedding band. He looked like, well, a normal guy. He sure didn't appear to be this "godless communist mommy hater" I always believed they were. I know he wanted to communicate with me as badly as I wanted to with him, but could you even imagine the consequences of a Russian and an American radioman speaking during the 80's? Not a pleasant picture for either of us. I remember how that changed my perception of 'the enemy' sailors. They were just like I was, just doing a job in a nation's defense. Oh, it didn't change how I felt about performing my duties, but it did put a face to the enemy. And that made things a little more profound.

I found the article below which reminded me of this story. FYI: The flag draped over this U-boat commander's coffin is the only one ever authorized to be flown above the American flag. It is authorized at sea by a Chaplain when providing services.

Recollections of Lieutenant Sheridan Bell (Chaplain Corps), USNR, concerning the sinking of a German submarine (*U-233*) by USS *Thomas* (DE-102) and USS *Baker* (DE-190) of Task Group (TG)22.10, a "hunter killer" unit, on 5 July 1944, as well as the capture of part of *U-233*'s crew, and the death and burial at sea of *U-233*'s commanding officer.

Adapted from Chaplain Bell interview in box 2 of World War II Interviews, Operational Archives Branch, Naval Historical Center.

Just after evening chow [meal], as the night planes were getting ready to take off, one of our lead destroyers came in contact with a [German] submarine [*U-233*]. It was about 5,000 yards in front of the ship so that the men of the crew, of the [escort aircraft carrier USS] *Card* [CVE-11], could witness the attack.

According to the Commander of the escort group, it was the most rapid successful sinking of a submarine in the Atlantic. For it was just twenty-two minutes from the time the Destroyer Escort [DE] contacted the sub until the survivors were being taken aboard one of the two destroyers [DD] standing by. So we were able to stand on the flight deck and see the fight, see the flames shooting up from the damaged submarine and the smoke and the fire of the guns.

The thirty-one survivors were brought aboard the [USS] *Card* within an hour so it was possible that evening to interrogate them and to get the necessary information that our Intelligence Officers wished to have. Some of the men were wounded, [and] those who were wounded and needed attention were taken to our sick bay [medical facility]. One of them was the Captain, [Kapitanleutnant Hans Steen], a man in his forties. He was brought down to the sick bay in an unconscious condition and immediately the doctors began to take care of him. I stayed with them a good deal that night and part of the following day.

The Captain did not regain consciousness but in that interval of twenty-four hours, everything was done possible on the part of the doctors to save his life. There were six [units of] blood plasmas given to him, two [blood] transfusions and in

The Captain did not regain consciousness but in that interval of twenty-four hours, everything was done possible on the part of the doctors to save his life. There were six [units of] blood plasmas given to him, two [blood] transfusions and in the period five tanks of oxygen were used. But, he was in such deep shock and the wounds had caused so much loss of blood that he died at five o'clock the following afternoon.

The Captain of the ship [USS *Card*] indicated that the [German captain's] funeral should be that evening before 8 o'clock reports. So at 1900 [7 p.m.], on the following evening [6 July], we performed the services of burial for the German U-boat Captain.

Our ship did not carry a swastika [Nazi flag] and it would not be appropriate for an American flag to be draped over the body. I found out that he was a member of the German Lutheran Church and felt that the most appropriate covering would be our church pennant which is the white pennant, nine foot pennant [a long tapering triangular nautical flag] with the blue cross upon it. So on our flight deck, on a platform on the port side (left side of the ship), rigging was erected by our carpenters which enabled us to dispose of the body as part of the service.

The company of the survivors of the submarine were informed and had been kept informed during the twenty-four hours in which they [the Navy doctors] were attempting to keep the Captain alive. Two of the crew of the submarine gave blood transfusions so they knew that everything had been done on the part of the medical officers to save his life. And they were informed of the service which would be at 1900.

The order was passed that it was a voluntary affair and the men of our ship's company who wished to attend would do so voluntarily. Practically the entire ship's company came to the flight deck and put on the uniform-of-the-day which was obligatory for the services. At 1900, the guard in custody of the prisoners, brought them up the forward elevator [large platform which raised aircraft from the hangar deck to the flight deck] and marched them to the midship where the body was placed on the slide. To make it possible for a quick disposal of the body, we had rigged a line from the top of the canvas bag securing it to the bottom of the slide, so that in the midst of the memorial service, during the committal, it would be possible to cut the line and the body go into the sea.

The service began with the two [German] officers standing on each side of the body of their Captain. I read as a service a beautiful prayer for our enemies which is in one of our Navy handbooks and there are certainly very appropriate Scripture which can be read: "The judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

There are songs of comfort which I read and then I came to the committal when his body was to be committed to the sea. They stood at attention and as I started the committal and came to the portion where the statement is given that the body will now be cast into the sea, I reached forward with the knife and severed the line and the body slowly slipped off the slide and went into the sea.

Just at that moment, before I could step back to the microphone and continue the committal service, the entire company of survivors whipped out the Nazi salute and in perfect cadence gave a farewell cry to their Commanding Officer. I do not know what the words were but it sounded like this. "Hola! Hola! Hola!"

And I understood it meant farewell.

It was interesting to see how moved the entire ship's company were at this emotion and the restraint with the emotion as the men of the submarine said farewell to their Commanding Officer.

Immediately following this outburst, which took us by surprise, I stepped up to the mike and was able to finish the committal service with its statement of the resurrection and the hope of the Christian faith. At the conclusion of that, the ship's officers returned the prisoners to the hold of the ship where they were being kept until we could deliver them to an American port. And later, one of the [German] officers asked if he could see me. He was the one who could speak very good English and he thanked me then for the service, and for the spirit of the service and asked if, when it would be permissible, I would write to the widow of the Captain informing her where he was buried, latitude and longitude, and include in the letter the service that was used. This I promised and have kept it so that when the war is concluded and such documents can be sent back to Germany, I will do that for Captain Steen's widow.

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The service was an interesting one because of the spirit of both companies. Each time that we have had survivors aboard, there has been a noticed interest on the part of our own men that they share their cigarettes and their candy and their ice cream with the prisoners of war do not look on them as enemy but as sailors who are then in need and there is no sense of bitterness or hostility.

#### Notes from the Base Storekeeper

This Saturday, September 10th, we will have for sale various and different patches and stickers along with the regular merchandise we have had at previous meetings. In addition, I have the new 2006 USSVI calendars for sale. (price not determined, but cheaper thru us) also, I still have some 2005 calendars I'll give you a deal you can't refuse. (still good for a couple of more months, good souvenir) Also, for those of you that are going to Seattle, I have tickets, 5 bucks a crack, winners: 1st prize, Veranda Suite for 2 plus \$600 cruise cash. 2nd prize, \$600 cruise cash and 3rd prize, \$300 cruise cash, plus all winners receive free Convention Registration. So...bring money. I'm sure that Bernie will be carrying plenty of "Da Book" for sale too.

I will be bringing to the meeting, if I don't forget, pictures of my old submarines as samples with a list of those that would be available for you. The prices charged at the convention were \$30 apiece. If enough interest is shown, we can get a better deal the more we order. In addition, I will have a catalog of boat patches that you may be interested in. Same deal, the more, the cheaper. I will be preparing a sheet for those interested.

At the November business meeting I will also be donating a travel alarm with the 50 year design on it for a raffle for the Holland Club attendees only.

See you all Saturday!

Phil Philipps

#### SUB MUSEUMS

**The Nautilus Submarine Museum and Library** in Groton is the only submarine museum operated by the U.S. Navy, and as such is the primary repository for artifacts, documents and photographs relating to U.S. submarine force history. Collections include:

- **More than 33,000** artifacts.
- **20,000** documents.
- **30,000** photos.
- **A world-renowned** 6,000-volume reference and research library.
- **The museum is home** to the USS Nautilus, the Navy's first nuclear-powered submarine.

**You can learn more** about the Nautilus museum by visiting [www.usnautilus.org](http://www.usnautilus.org) or calling (203)694-3558.

**The St. Mary's Submarine Museum** is privately run and relies on donated materials. Started in 1996, it is in historic downtown St. Mary's, Ga., in a city-owned building. It has no direct relationship to the Kings Bay Submarine Base. Collections include:

- **More than 5,000** items on display.
- **An extensive collection** of documents related to World War II submarine warfare.
- **You can learn** about the St. Mary's Submarine Museum at [www.stmaryssubmuseum.com](http://www.stmaryssubmuseum.com) or call

## Upcoming events

### Columbus Base meeting schedule for the remainder of 2005

<b>September</b>	<b>Saturday</b> 10 Sept. 2005	<b>NOON</b>	<b>London American Legion Post #105</b> 51 E. First St. London, OH 43140
<b>October</b>	<b>Saturday</b> 1 Oct. 2005	<b>NOON</b>	<b>VFW Post #2374</b> 4223 Roberts Rd. Columbus, OH 43228
<b>November</b>	<b>Saturday</b> 5 Nov. 2005	<b>NOON</b>	<b>Buckeye Lake VFW Post #1388</b> 3430 North Bank Rd. Millersport, OH 43046
<b>December</b> <b>Holiday Dinner</b> Bring a Toy for <b>TOYS FOR TOTS</b>	<b>Saturday</b> 3 Dec. 2005	<b>1700</b>	<b>Hickory House Restaurant (Gahanna)</b> 550 Officenter Place Gahanna, OH 43230

#### The Conn

**Base commander**

Jim Morton

**Vice Commander**

Jim Koogler

**Treasurer**

Eric Dreiseidel

**Secretary**

**Chaplain**

David Johnson

**COB**

James Williams

**Membership Chairman**

Bernie Kenyon

**Storekeeper**

Phil Philipps

**Editor**

Jan Creekmore

### **September Birthdays**

Tom Tobin	09-05
Jake Clark	09-09
Bill McCorkle	09-09
Ken Strahm	09-09
Cmdr. Mike Ryan	09-10
JoAnne O'Carroll	09-12
Paul Campbell	09-25
Liz Kenyon	09-26
James "Bob" McDaniel	09-27

## *USS Columbus (SSN-762)*

### *Call to Quarters*



### Sailor of the Quarter and Senior Sailor of the Quarter Second Quarter 2005

Presentation of the USS Columbus (SSN-762) Sailor of the Quarter (SOQ) and Senior Sailor of the Quarter (SSOQ) was made on Friday, August 12, 2005. In ceremonies held during quarters, Commanding Officer Charles A. Marquez awarded Sailor of the Quarter honors to ET3(SS) Lewis Traylor, and Senior Sailor of the Quarter honors to MM1(SS) Matthew Portmann.

**ET3(SS) Lewis Traylor** hails from Fairfield, Texas, which is roughly 100 miles south of Dallas, about 1/3 of the way between Dallas and Houston. He joined the Navy in August 2002, after completing high school in Fairfield, for the college benefits and to see the world. He quickly qualified in submarines 3 months after arriving aboard USS Columbus, and made the last deployment prior to the boat entering the yards at PSNS. USS Columbus has been his only sea going command. He has twice been awarded USS Columbus "Warrior of the Week", and most recently was selected as the "Blue Jacket of the Month" for April 2005. ET3(SS) Traylor and his wife Melissa are expecting their first child in September 2005.

**MM1(SS) Matthew Portmann** hails from Green, Ohio, which is just south of Akron, about 130 miles from Columbus. He joined the Navy in August 1998, after completing high school and some college, to get some real world experience, support his country, and do something he had never done before. He made 4 deployments on USS Greenville (SSN-772), his first sea-going command. He has been attached to USS Columbus since July 2003, also making the most recent deployment prior to the boat entering the yards at PSNS. He is currently the Leading Petty Officer of the Machinery Division and coordinates the enlisted watch-bill for the nuclear trained sailors. MM1(SS) Portmann and his wife Lauren have an 18-month-old son, Connor.

This ceremony was of particular interest to the Columbus Base USSVI, marking the inaugural presentations of our SOQ/SSOQ sponsorship awards. In keeping with our sponsorship, ET3(SS) Traylor and MM1(SS) Portmann each received Certificates of Recognition and \$25.00 Navy Exchange gift cards from the Columbus Base.



Above: ET3 (SS) Lewis Traylor (left) receives the Columbus Base SOQ Certificate of Recognition from USS Columbus Commanding Officer Charles A. Marquez



Above: MM1 (SS) Matthew Portmann (left) receives the Columbus Base SSOQ Certificate of Recognition from USS Columbus Commanding Officer Charles A. Marquez.

