

COLUMBUS BASE SUBMARINE VETERANS

Volume 5, Issue 9

October 2009



THE GREEN BOARD

ALL SEAS ARE NAVIGABLE



Columbus Base Newsletter

History Of Navy Day

Navy Day was established on October 27, 1922 by the Navy League of the United States. Although it was not a national holiday, Navy Day received special attention from President Warren Harding. Harding wrote to the Secretary of the Navy Edwin Denby:

"Thank you for your note which brings assurance of the notable success which seems certain to attend the celebration of Navy Day on Friday, October 27, in commemoration of past and present services of the Navy. From our earliest national beginnings the Navy has always been, and deserved to be, an object of special pride to the American people. Its record is indeed one to inspire such sentiments, and I am very sure that such a commemoration as is planned will be a timely reminder."

"It is well for us to have in mind that under a program of lessening naval armaments there is a greater reason for maintaining the highest efficiency, fitness and morale in this branch of the national defensive service. I know how earnestly the Navy personnel are devoted to this idea and want you to be assured of my hearty concurrence."

October 27 was suggested by the Navy League to recognize Theodore Roosevelt's birthday. Roosevelt had been an Assistant Secretary of the Navy and supported a strong Navy as well as the idea of Navy Day. In addition, October 27 was the anniversary of a 1775 report issued by a special committee of the Continental Congress favoring the purchase of merchant ships as the foundation of an American Navy.

Navy Day was last observed on Oct.27 1949

NAVY DAY

October 27th 1925

At New London

HISTORY

In 1867 Mr. Jonathan Culver, a patriotic citizen of Groton, Connecticut, turned over to the Navy the present site of the Submarine Base under the condition that the property should revert to the donor's estate upon discontinuance of the land for use as a Naval Station.

For years the property was used merely as a coaling station by early torpedo boats and such ships as the old Massachusetts, the Columbia and the Tonopah.

The first submarines to arrive at the New London Naval Station were the G-1, G-2, G-3 and G-4 with their tender, the monitor OZARK in 1915.

In 1917 the Navy decided to use this property exclusively for submarines and the construction of the present Base was authorized and the work started. At that time the grounds consisted of a rocky slope on which four buildings stood. Buildings No. 1 and 2 were erected by the Navy Department in 1872; building No. 3 and the old coaling shed which stood on the site of the present machine shop, were erected in 1881.

There are now 91 buildings and eleven docks at this Base. Facilities for the berthing, repair and maintenance of thirty submarines under war time conditions now obtain. The various activities housed in these buildings are described in this pamphlet.





MARINE BARRACKS.

MARINE BARRACKS AND MINE DEPOT.

Situated on the Upper Base are the Marine Barracks, the first buildings to attract the eye of the approaching visitor. The general neatness, smart appearance and the beautiful floral borders never fail to excite comment. Here are quartered a detachment of 3 officers and 56 men whose duty it is to provide guards for the Base and Mine Depot. Daily practice and drills are held and the Marines take an active part in the Submarine Base athletics, amusements, etc. A Post Exchange and Library are in existence.

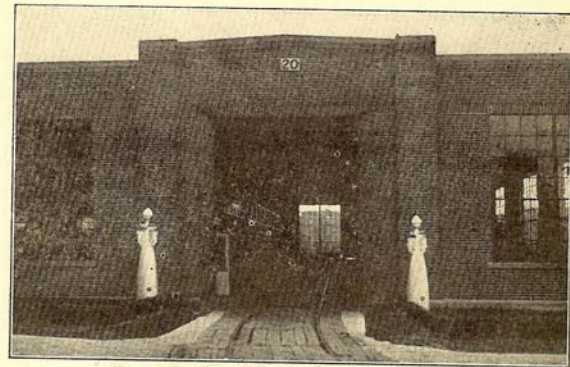
In the rear of these buildings is located the Navy Mine Depot wherein mines are overhauled, stored and kept in first class condition for War Service. Protective harbor nets, buoys, chain cables and other ordnance material are here stored.

Some of the most efficacious forms of mines used in warfare may be seen at this Depot and constant care is required to keep them in fit condition. An excellent record has been made at this Depot without an accident or explosion in handling the powerful contents with which these mines are loaded.



ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING NO. 1.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS.
Nos. 1 and 2.



TORPEDO SHOP.

THE TORPEDO SHOP.
Building No. 20. Erected in 1918.

This building has storage space for 326 torpedoes and adequate facilities for the care and overhaul of the torpedoes of 30 active submarines. A full description of a torpedo would fill a volume. Briefly

Each torpedo weighs approximately one ton, will run at any set depth from surface to 25 feet down, in any set direction, and will run at from 30 to 40 knots for a distance of ten miles. They can develop 125 horsepower. The motive power is compressed air which acts on a Curtis turbine. 590 pounds of high explosive, "TNT," is carried in the war-head of each torpedo. The propelling and starting mechanisms are very delicate and complicated, requiring the services of experienced and skillful mechanics for the proper adjustment and care.

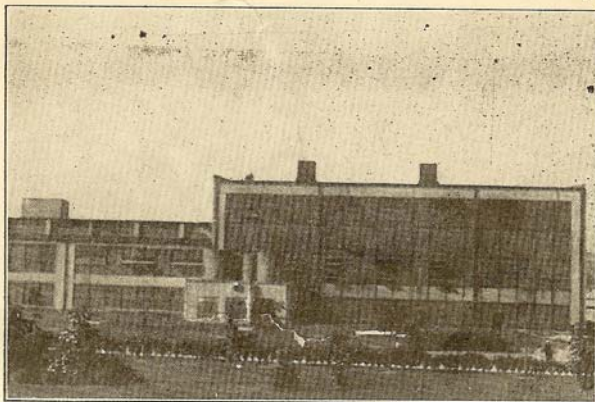
The latest type torpedoes are valued at about \$10,000 each. Constant practice is required to maintain high marksmanship in firing the torpedoes at a target and thousands are fired every year. Although torpedoes have been known to go astray, contrary to general opinion there are, in fact, very few totally lost but are picked up and recovered by divers.

The diving apparatus used by the Navy is also stored in this building ready for instant use. Navy divers have reached a depth of 302 feet and as the air pressure is 125 pounds to the square inch that depth is the maximum which may be hoped to be reached with the present modern diving apparatus.

The exhibits in this building are the most interesting of any on the Submarine Base.

Inserts from a program offered at the Navy Day at New London Conn. Submarine base. Oct.27th 1925.

From the collection of the base Submarine Museum.



THE MACHINE SHOP AND POWER HOUSE.
Erected in 1918.

Upcoming Events

October 24, 2009	0900	Adopt a highway cleanup. Last for 2009
November 6, 2009	1200(Step Off)	Veterans Day Parade, Columbus
November 7, 2009	1200	Monthly Meeting at Am Vets Post 89
November 28, 2009	1500(Set Up)	Gahanna Festival of Lights Parade
December 5, 2009	1700	Holiday Dinner Am Vets Post 89



Lost Boats



October

USS Seawolf (SS-197) Lost with all hands (82 crew and 17 US Army) on 3 October 1944 when it was mistaken for a Japanese submarine and sunk by friendly destroyers just north of Morotai, Republic of the Philippines.

USS S-44 (SS-155) Lost on 7 October 1943 with the loss of 54 men when it was sunk by surface craft off Paramushiru, Kuriles. 2 men survived and were taken prisoner.

USS Wahoo (SS-238) Lost with all hands (80 men) during a Japanese air and surface attack on 11 October 1943 in La Perouse Strait off northern Japan.

USS Dorado (SS-248) Lost with all hands (76 men) by air attack on 12 October 1943 in the SW Atlantic.

USS Escobar (SS-294) Lost with all hands (82 men) by possible Japanese mine in the Yellow Sea off China on 17 October 1944.

USS Shark II (SS-314) Lost with all hands (90 men) on 24 October 1944 when it was sunk by Japanese surface craft in the channel midway between Hainan and Bashi Channel.

USS Darter (SS-227) Lost on 24 October 1944 when it became grounded on Bombay Shoal off Palawan then was destroyed. All the crew were rescued by USS Dace.

USS Tang (SS-306) Lost with 78 men on 25 October 1944 when it was sunk by her own torpedo in the north end of the Formosa Strait. Nine of the crew were taken prisoner and survived the war. Her Commanding Officer, Richard O'Kane, received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

USS O-5 (SS-66) Lost on 29 October 1923 with the loss of 3 men when it was sunk after a collision with the SS Ababgarez (owned by the United Fruit company) off the Panama Canal. Torpedomen's Mate 2nd Class (SS) Henry Berault received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic actions.

Base Officer Nominations

Times a running out to select someone or step up and put your name in the ring. October 15th is the dead line to nominate for the 2010, 2011 officer positions.

Base Commander, Vice Commander, Treasure and Secretary are all position that need to be voted on. We need some new thoughts, new folks to bring in new ideas and make the base even better than the high standard we have achieved.

Please contact: Joe Testa

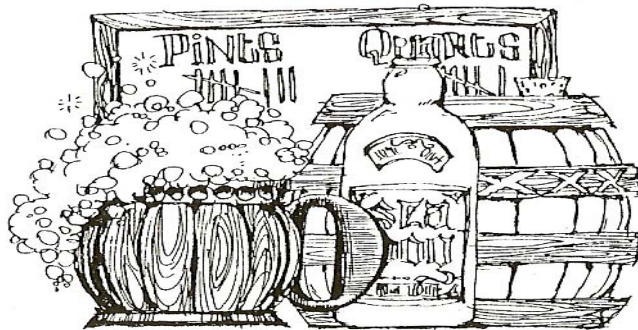
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Marvin Pastor

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Galin Brady

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MIND YOUR Ps AND Qs

There are few of us who have not at one time or another been admonished to "mind our Ps and Qs," or in other words, to behave our best. Oddly enough, "mind your Ps and Qs" had nautical beginnings as a method of keeping books on the waterfront.

In the days of sail when sailors were paid a pittance, seamen drank their ale in taverns whose keepers were willing to extend credit until payday. Since many salts were illiterate, keepers kept a talley of pints and quarts consumed by each sailor on a chalkboard behind the bar. Next to each person's name a mark was made under "P" for pint or "Q" for quart whenever a seaman ordered another draught.

On payday, each seaman was liable for each mark next to his name, so he was forced to "mind his Ps and Qs" or get into financial trouble. To ensure an accurate count by unscrupulous keepers, sailors had to keep their wits and remain somewhat sober. Sobriety usually ensured good behavior, hence the meaning of "mind your Ps and Qs."

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 of America and its Constitution."



3 October 2009

The October meeting of Columbus Base USSVI was called to order at 1300 by Base Commander Joe Testa, at AmVets Post #89, with 24 members and guests in attendance including Lee Mather, Galin Brady, Don Crinkey, Bob Frier, Walt Fleak, Bill Anderson, Dave Creekmore, Bob Wells, John Leers, Greg Leonard, Rob Althoff, Denise Althoff, Bill McCorkle, Barb McCorkle, Jim Koogler, Jim Tolson, Frank Lloyd, Sharon Lloyd, Cliff Dodson, Dave O'Carroll, Marvin Pastor, Bob McDaniel, George Trace, and Joe Testa. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chief of the Base Marvin Pastor. Opening invocation was given by Chaplain Sharon Lloyd. Tolling of lost boats for October was conducted by Chaplain Sharon Lloyd and COB Marv Pastor.

Secretary's Report: Joe Testa noted that the minutes of the September meeting were posted in the Green Board and asked for any questions or corrections. There were none.

Treasurer's Report: presented by Jim Koogler. He reported the base has returned all books to Ken Sewell at the same price the base paid for them. There were no questions. Greg Leonard made a motion to accept the report and it was seconded by Dave O'Carroll. The report was unanimously accepted.

Webmaster Report: No news to report.

Chaplain's Report: given by Sharon Lloyd. Sharon advised she sent a card from the base to the family of Dave Harnish, recently killed in a car-motorcycle accident in Phoenix.

Membership Report: given by Jim Koogler. There were no new members to report. Columbus Base currently has 88 members. Emails will be coming regarding annual dues.

Committee Reports

Activities

- o Adopt-a-highway cleanup: 24 October, 0900 Don Gentile American Legion.
 - NJROTC will join,
 - Officer's Meeting afterwards

- Gahanna Parade of Lights, November 28
 - Setup at 3 PM.
 - Christmas Dinner, Saturday December 5th, AmVets Post 89
 - 1700 Cash Bar
 - 1800 Dinner
 - Toy Collection – Toys for Tots

Unfinished Business: Nothing to report.

New Business

- Columbus Base Officer Elections
- Nominating Committee Members: Joe Testa, Galin Brady, and Marv Pastor.
- Nominations due by October 15th
- Ballots mailed November 2
- Ballots Due November 22
- Results to Secretary by December 1

For the Good of the Order

- Joe Testa thanked Dave Creekmore, Marv Pastor and Bill Anderson, the Book Committee, for their hard work and service to Columbus Base. Joe reported the committee is discontinued since the base no longer has any books.

Bill McCorkle discussed recently attending the Charleston Base meeting. 137 of 324 members attended.

50/50 Drawing

The 50/50 winner was Dave O'Carroll

Additional winners were:

- Bob Wells: OSU ball cap
- Clutch Koogler: Pumpkin decoration
- Walt Fleak: loaf of Sharon Lloyd's home baked bread
- Rob Althoff: Coffee cup
- George Trace: OSU Cooler
- Cliff Dodson: bottle of wine
- Sharon Lloyd: OSU Program
- Jim Tolson: loaf of Sharon Lloyd's home baked bread
- Bill Anderson: chocolate Pretzels
- Galin Brady: cookies

The next meeting will be November 7, 2009 at AmVets Post #89.

- 1200 Social Hour,
- 1300 Meeting

Closing Prayer was offered Chaplain Sharon Lloyd

Motion to Adjourn made by Galen Brady, seconded by Marv Pastor. Meeting adjourned at 1400 by Commander Joe Testa.

Submitted by

Jim Tolson

Vice Commander

“Throughout Its history, the U.S. Navy’s principal function-war fighting-has often yielded exploration and discovery as by products. Cases in point are the brave and tenacious explorers presented here.

These men made especially significant contributions to our understanding of the ocean depths, the expanse of space, the capacity and capability of vessels ranging from leaky wooden ships to high-tech spacecraft, and the limits of human endurance.”

The following are three of the authors Top Ten Navy Explorers:

Edward L. Beach, Jr.

1960



The Cold War was a cat-and-mouse game of one-upmanship, and Ned Beach (as he was known to his friends) one-upped the Soviets in spectacular fashion.

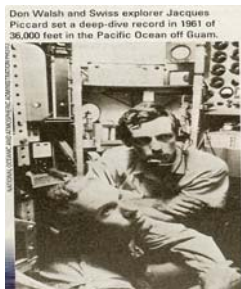
From February to April 1960, he was the skipper of the *USS Triton* (SSRN-586) during the nuclear-powered submarine’s submerged circumnavigation of the Earth. This was the first such voyage in history and one that broke a submerged speed record that still stands. It was actually his idea, as he recalled in the last interview before his death. “Finally, I got an idea. We’ll do a stunt. We’ll go around the world.” And what a stunt is was.

During WWII, he served aboard three subs, earning the Navy Cross. Beach was the naval aide (1953-57) to President Dwight D. Eisenhower and became a successful author. But he was most proud of his feat in the *Triton*.

From an article by Fred L. Schultz in the VFW magazine Oct. 2009

Don Walsh

1961



The “Deepest Dive” happened in 1961. Only unmanned remotely operated vehicles have matched the feat since then.

While the rest of the world focused on the space race, the Navy was looking inward, to the uncharted waters of the oceans’ depths. In this case, it was the Challenger Deep in the Pacific Ocean’s Marianas Trench near Guam.

With Swiss explorer Jacques Piccard, Walsh set the manned deep-dive record at nearly 11,000 meters (36,000 feet)-with the pressure being more than eight tons per square inch at that depth.

In an interview, he referred to the expedition as “just another day at the office.” Walsh is still diving today at age 77, leading expeditions to the wrecks of, among other, *RMS Titanic*, and the German battleship *Bismarck*.

And hi exploration of Antarctica led to a mountain ridge on that icy continent being named after him.

Walsh was executive officer of the Submarine Bugara off Vietnam in 1963

Robert Ballard

1985



Few explorers have covered as much of the world’s sea floor as Ballard has. And none has gained more fame and fortune for those expeditions. While he has dived on some of the most famous shipwrecks in sea history, he was the first to locate, study, and film the remains of the *Titanic*, the passenger liner sunk by a collision with an iceberg on April 15, 1912.

The expedition-to depths of 2.5 miles-was funded by the Navy, which mandated that Ballard locate the wrecks of the mysteriously sunken nuclear-powered submarines *Scorpion* (SSN-589) and *Thresher* (SSN-593). Finding the *Titanic* in late summer 1985 was a bonus. Ballard also was an outspoken critic of later operations that salvaged artifacts for profit from the sunken liner.

He served in the U.S. Navy from 1967 to 1970, and was assigned to the Deep Submergence Group at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts.

USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN 619)

Keel laid: April 26, 1961

Launched: September 15, 1962

Commissioned: July 3, 1963

Sponsor: Mrs. Estes Kefauver

Decommissioned: August 31, 1989

Recycled: August 30, 1999

Builder: Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, CA

First Commanding Officers

CDR. Alfred J. Whittle (Blue)

CDR. James B. Wilson (Gold)

March 24, 1979

USS Andrew Jackson incurs slight damage to its rudder when it runs aground briefly while entering the New London, CT harbor in low visibility.

Following commissioning, the nuclear-powered fleet ballistic missile submarine sailed via the Panama Canal to the east coast. On 1 and 11 October, during shakedown training out of Cape Canaveral, FL she successfully launched A-2 Polaris missiles; and, on 26 October, she sent A-3X Polaris missiles into space in the first submerged launching of its type; and she repeated the feat on 11 November. Five days later and six days before his assassination, on 16 November 1963, President John F. Kennedy embarked in Observation Island (EAG 154) observed USS Andrew Jackson launch another A-2 Polaris missile from a point off Cape Canaveral and congratulated CDR. Wilson and his crew for "impressive teamwork." In late November, USS Andrew Jackson entered the Charleston Naval Shipyard, Charleston, SC for post-shakedown availability.

The yard work was completed on 4 April 1964, and USS Andrew Jackson was assigned to Submarine Squadron 16, Submarine force, Atlantic Fleet. In May, she departed her homeport, Charleston, for her first patrol and continued to conduct deterrent patrols from the advanced base at Rota, Spain, through 1973. On 19 March of that year, the submarine arrived at the Electric Boat Division, General Dynamics Corp., Groton, CT for a conversion to Poseidon.

This modernization and repair task was completed on 7 August 1975, and the ship sailed to Exuma sound, Bahamas, for acoustic trials. Next she reported to Cape Canaveral, FL for Poseidon missile tests. In December, USS Andrew Jackson returned to Groton, her new homeport, for the Christmas holidays.

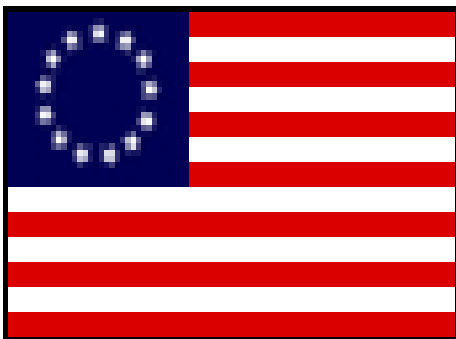
Post-shakedown operations continued in 1976. During February, USS Andrew Jackson conducted nuclear weapons acceptance tests at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico; St. Croix and Ft. Lauderdale, FL. She sailed to Charleston and entered the Charleston Naval Shipyard on 8 March for an availability period. USS Andrew Jackson was underway again on 9 May and returned to New London, CT in June. The next four weeks were spent in midshipman training cruises in the New London operating area. In late July she left New London for her first strategic deterrent patrol after her Poseidon conversion. When the patrol was completed, USS Andrew Jackson entered her advanced base at Holy Loch, Scotland. In 1977, patrols from Holy Loch were interspersed with port visits at Halifax, Nova Scotia, and New London. In September, a refit was conducted at Charleston, then the submarine returned to Holy Loch. USS Andrew Jackson continued her deterrent patrols from Holy Loch through 1985.

Decommissioned and stricken from the Navy list on August 31, 1989, the USS Andrew Jackson spent the next years at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, WA awaiting to be disposed of through the Navy's Nuclear Powered Ship and Submarine Recycling Program. Recycling was finished on August 30, 1999.



**October
Birthdays**

Richard Morin	10-02
Karla Tolson	10-02
Bob Wells	10-05
Cliff Dodson	10-09
Bill Anderson	10-22



Editor's Note

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

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The Conn

Base commander

Joe Testa

Vice Commander

Jim Tolson

Treasurer

Jim Koogler

Secretary

Tom Baughman

Chaplain

Sharon Lloyd

COB

Marv Pastor

Membership Chairman

Jim Koogler

Storekeeper

Frank Lloyd

Web Master

Cliff Dodson

Editor

Jan Creekmore

Base Galley

Blueberry Cream Cheese Pound Cake

- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup of vegetable oil
- 1 (18-ounce) package yellow cake mix
- 1 (3-ounce) package instant vanilla pudding mix
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 3 cups fresh blueberries
- Powdered sugar (optional)

- 1) Preheat oven to 325F. Lightly spray a 9-inch tube or Bundt pan with nonstick cooking spray.
- 2) Combine cream cheese and oil in a medium bowl; beat with a mixer at high speed until smooth and creamy. Add cake mix, pudding mix, eggs and vanilla. Beat at medium speed until blended. Fold in berries. (Batter will be very thick.) Spoon batter into prepared pan.
- 3) Bake 60 minutes or until a wooden toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool cake pan on a wire rack 20 minutes. Remove from pan and cool completely on a wire rack. Sprinkle with powdered sugar before serving.

Serves 16

Nutritional facts per serving: 300 calories, 17g fat, 4g protein, 34g carbohydrates, 1g fiber, 320 mg sodium

From the kitchen of Sharon Lloyd

Adopt-A-Highway

**Last one for this year, be sure to show your support
and join the effort.**

October 24th 9AM

Rain date the following Saturday

Remember to bring your donations of coffee, tea, or hot cocoa to the monthly meetings.

Your donations are very much appreciated by the veterans at the Chalmers P. Wylie Veterans Clinic.

Navy Seeks To Allow Women To Serve On Submarines

By Ann Scott Tyson, Washington Post Staff Writer

The nation's top military officer has called for lifting the ban on women serving aboard submarines, in a significant step toward reducing the barriers to women in combat.

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he seeks the change to broaden opportunities for women in the military. "One policy I would like to see changed is the one barring their service aboard submarines," Mullen wrote in answers to questions from Congress before his Senate reconfirmation hearing last week.

Lifting the ban would allow women for the first time to serve as officers and enlisted personnel aboard the strategic fleet of fast-attack and other submarines where sailors live and work in cramped quarters at sea for six months at a time. After combat-exclusion rules were lifted in the early 1990s, women in the Navy were allowed to serve on surface combat ships and in combat aircraft, but the ban on their employment in submarines remained.

The Navy has for years been exploring how best to bring women into its submarine force. In a statement this week, Adm. Gary Roughead, the chief of naval operations, said he is "very comfortable addressing integrating women" into the force, but added, "There are some particular issues . . . we must work through."

One issue, he said, is living space. Packed with specialized gear, spare parts, and food and other supplies to operate independently for three months, a submarine is extremely cramped. On fast-attack submarines, approximately 150 personnel live in space the size of a three-bedroom house. Officers sleep in three-person staterooms, each the size of a small closet, and all 15 of them share a single shower, sink and toilet.

For female officers to live on the submarines, some three-person berths would be reserved for them and they would share the bathroom -- known as a "head" -- with men in a time-sharing arrangement. The submarines would have to be modified to provide adequate privacy for enlisted women and men, senior officers said.

Of greater concern, officers said, is the rate of retention for women in the Navy -- about 15 percent, compared with more than 30 percent for men -- and the possibility that the integration of women could lead to gaps in the relatively small submarine force. Women often leave in their late 20s to start families, although to improve retention the Navy in 2007 lengthened to one year the period that female sailors can remain ashore after childbirth.

About 3,600 officers and 16,000 enlisted men make up the submarine force, compared with 8,000 officers and 63,000 enlisted on the surface fleet.

Once the ban is lifted, it would take a few years to integrate women successfully, both by training female Navy officers and enlisted personnel at all levels to move into the force and by designing a program to ensure a steady flow of women into jobs, the officials said. Integration would start with a small pilot program, said the officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on the record.

One reason the Navy seeks to integrate women on submarines is that they make up a growing percentage of college graduates, including engineers. "There is a vast pool of talent that we are neglecting in our recruiting efforts," a senior official said.

Of the 42 countries that operate submarines, Sweden, Spain, Norway, Canada and Australia allow women to serve on them, although those countries' diesel submarines go to sea for shorter periods than the nuclear submarines operated by the U.S. Navy.

Submitted by: Cliff Dodson