

# Steel Valley Dolphins

January 2017



The official newsletter of the  
USS Requin Base of the USSVI  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

## USSVI Creed:

"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of 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."



Meetings held on the second Saturday of the month normally in Leetsdale at the VFW Post and quarterly meetings held around our membership area.

- **Make a difference, get to a meeting!**

----- Pride Runs Deep -----

Next Meeting: 1230 11 February 2017, American Legion Post 461 271 State Street Baden, Pa 15005-1943

## 2015 USS Requin Base Officers

Base Commander	Hubert C. Dietrich	412-486-2635	hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com
1st Vice Commander	Carl Stigers	412-995-8028	carstenstigers@verizon.net
2nd Vice Commander	Ron Goron	724-626-1209	patron@zoominternet.net
Secretary	Jeff Simon	724-502-4505	jeffsimon@zoominternet.net
Treasurer	Lee M. Bookwalter	412-795-8337	booky143@verizon.net
Storekeeper	Frank Nicotra	412-835-6540	nicotrafrank@gmail.com
Chaplain	Carl Stigers	412-995-8028	carstenstigers@verizon.net
Past Base Commander	Joe Campisi	412-322-3201	jcampisi1@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor	Jack Sutherin	330-482-4175	jack.sutherin@comcast.net
Webmaster	Lee M. Bookwalter	412-795-8337	booky143@verizon.net
COB/Historian -	Clyde Porter, jr.	740-635-3179	candspporter@comcast.net
Photographer	Peter Foster	724+980-7657	gopetro2000@gmail.com
SVD Hard Copy	Rick Elster	412-751-7967	relster565@comcast.net

----- Pride Runs Deep -----



## Binnacle List

Bob Schmidt

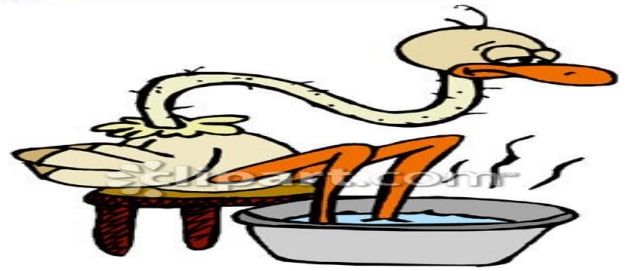
Aaron Ellis

Judy Elster

Edy Dietrich

Bob Gourley

Bernie Sigler



USS Pittsburgh with Terrible towels donated by Requin base.



Commanders Corner:

The Requin Base roster as of January 1, 2017 stands at two hundred twenty one (221) shipmates. This is an increase of fifty three (53) new members. This is by far the largest number of members the Requin Base has had. We recruited thirty nine (39) sailors from the USS PITTSBURGH SS720. We lost two (2) sailors that sailed on Eternal Patrol, one(1) shipmate moved and three(3) decided not to renew USSVI. We are sixth largest base in USSVI and will continue to build our base membership with the help of our base members. We have three(3) perspective members who may join. We have five (5) shipmates who are on active duty and we appreciate them continuing their membership with the Requin Base.

The coming year will be filled with existing and new activities. Your officers will be having a board meeting later on in January and will put the 2017 events, activities and budget in place, to report back to the membership at the February meeting.

**ETERNAL PATROL**

Charles 'Buddy' Tolbert CSC(SS) & Matt Holzer CS2(SS)

**NEW MEMBERS:**

Any SHIPMATE, who recruits a new/old member that joins/rejoins the Requin Base will be given credit for a years dues for the Requin Base.

**Birthdays**

**Members**

Larry Iden - 1/05/43  
Bill Kieler - 1/16/30  
Mike Markel - 1/15/41  
Bob Moore - 1/08/48  
Bob Myers - 1/21/53  
Angelo Naso - 1/27/42  
Fred Nelson - 1/29/44  
James Phelan - 1/20/38  
Bob J. Schmidt - 1/15/61  
Brien Siege - 1/23/66  
Tom E. Stewart - 1/27/30  
Paul Wassenberg - 11/27/34  
Herb Wise - 1/16/31  
John Yaksich - 1/16/31

**First Mates**

Rita Lindsay - 1/02  
Sandra Morgan - 1/10  
Carmen Murman - 1/01  
Susan Nunnery - 1/27  
Dotty Paul- 1/23  
Tiny Siege - 1/15

**Anniversaries**

Bob & Kim Bittner 1/06  
Bob & Donna Garlock 1/10  
Bob & Lynn Gourley 1/08  
Dave & Dianne Howton 1/27  
James & Audrey Lasher 1/15  
Fred & Carmen Nelson 1/26  
Bob & Isabelle Watson 1/?

(any additions or correction, please let me know)

**REQUIN BASE WWII MEMBERS**

Richard Biemer  
Robert Kaufman  
James Ross  
James Stahl  
Earl Wood

Hubert Brown  
Robert Krautstrunk  
Charles Schwertfeger  
Fred Voskuhl

Herbert Hollingsworth  
Sal Moliterno  
Vince Segelon  
Robert Watson

**CREW MEMBERS OF THE USS REQUIN SS/SSR481**

James Bence	Mike Bonn	Dennis Cantwell
Wil Carlton	Kato Davenport	John Donnelly
Lawton Gains	James Harris	Charles Hilgendorf
Frank Indo	Robert Krautstrunk	Merlin Larson
Robert Moore	Charles Nixon	Doug Nunnery
Alfred Regits	Earl Riley	Bob Sampson
Robert L. Schmidt	Richard Simpson	John Stewart
Paris Von Rabenau	Herb Wise	

ARE THERE ANY MORE REQUIN SAILORS THAT WANT TO JOIN???????

**BINNICAL LIST**

R.L. Schmidt (NJ) - Stroke    Aaron Ellis - Mini Stroke    Judy Elster - Eye Surgery  
Edie Dietrich - Heart Surgery    Bob Gourley - Back Surgerey    Bernie Sigler, Leakage

( We would appreciate if we were notified if and when you are under the weather, so we can notify the rest of the Base and have the opportunity to wish you well).

**HOLLAND CLUB MEMBERS FOR 2017**

Dennis Cantwell	Robert Moore	Edward Morgan
Charles Nixon	Earl Riley	Fred Voskuhl

**LOYALTY PIN - REQUIN BASE FOR 2017**

<b>FIVE YEAR</b>	<b>TEN YEAR</b>	<b>FIFTEEN YEAR</b>	<b>TWENTY YEAR</b>
Jeff Biel	Lee Bookwalter	Joe Campisi	Alfred Lloyd
Val Bolcato	Frank Indo	Rick Elster	Cato Davenport
Clair Bouts	James Lasher	Ron Goron	Henry Franz
Tom Burdin	Clyde Porter	R.L Schmidt	Larry Iden
George Dolgos	Earl Riley		Ralph Stroede
Bob Garlock			
Lou Hamill			
Mark Hoag			
Scott Holzworth			
Dave Howton			
Bob Kaufman			
John Mack			
Chris Shal			
George Stass			
Rob Welts			
James Wiehagen			

The above shipmates received their pins with their calendar and dues notice.

### **REQUIN BASE CANDY PROGRAM**

Our candy program is up and running all year long. Bernie Sigler (DBF) our candy Czar makes purchases the bars from Daffins and fills our orders as quickly as possible. The candy comes in boxes of 36 and the cost is \$1.00 per bar. The candy bars are Milk Chocolate, Crunchy, Peanut Butter, Carmel, Almond and Dark Chocolate. We can make up a box of what ever kind of bars you want.

The program is set up this way - the members orders the candy and pays upfront. Then to recoup his money, he sells the 36 bars of candy and does not cost him a penny. The \$36.00 per box is divided - \$18.00 is given back to the candy company and the other \$18.00 is given back to the base. The member decides which base activity that he wants the candy profit (\$18.00) to go - Kap(SS)4Kid(SS), Eagle Scouts Program, or the General Fund. The bottom line is - that it helps us balance our base budget for 2017. You can order the candy directly from Bernie (menhaden377@yahoo.com) and you can pick up the candy at the next base meeting. If you want your candy order in boxes of mixed bars, then just reach out to me and I will mix a box of your preference.

### **HICKORY BARK SYRUP**

As another base fund raiser, we sell Hickory Bark Syrup. There are only three (3) individuals that make the syrup in Pa. In this order, there are twelve (12) bottles left. This is the third (3rd) year that we have it available for the membership. The cost of 8 oz jug or bottle is \$12.00 and \$15.00 for a twelve (12) oz bottle . When this order is sold out, we MAY have two (2) other varieties besides the Hickory Bark. They will be sold in 8oz bottles and they are - Shagbark Hickory (aged in Bourbon Barrels) and Shagbark Hickory (Sweet-n-Spicy). Hmmmmmmmmm!

The profits are used to balance our base budget.

### **BASE OFFICERS FOR 2017**

Base Commander - Huey Dietrich  
First Vice Commander - Carl Stigers  
Second Vice Commander - OPEN  
Secretary - Jeff Simon  
Treasurer - Lee Bookwalter  
Storekeeper - Frank Nicotra  
Chaplain - Carl Stigers  
Past Base Commander - Joey Campisi  
Newsletter Editor - Jack Sutherin  
Webmaster - Lee Bookwalter  
COB/Historian - Clyde Porter, Jr.  
Photographer - Peter Foster  
SVD Hard Copy - Rick Elster

(Anyone who is interested in becoming the Second Vice Commander, please submit your request in writing to the Base Commander)

## **EAGLE SCOUT PROGRAM**

We are in the process of receiving Eagle Scout Courts of Honor requests for 2017. We are growing in the numbers of C of H that we participate in. The total is well over 100. We attend the Eagle Scout's C of H by giving the Eagle Scout, a Certificate, a Patch of recognition and a Requin Base Challenge Coin. It only takes less than two hours to handle this assignment. At 99% of the C of H, we are invited to have a lunch or dinner. (depending on the time of day), and you can take a friend or your first mate with you. The C of H committee covers the areas that are near to them in and around Pittsburgh, and the shipmates who live in rural communities, cover their community. Just by seeing us at their ceremonies, over ten(10) new members have joined the Requin Base, who otherwise would never know about the USSVI or Requin Base. The ceremony is a very rewarding experience.

A few of our committee persons have retired due to sickness and we need shipmates to step up and be apart of the eagle scout committee. Please e-mail First Vice Commander Carl Stigers (carstenstigers@verizon.net) who is the chairman of the program.

**ANY MEMBER WHO WANTS TO HELP OUT ON ANY OF THE BASE COMMITTEES, PLEASE LET ME KNOW AND WE WILL PLUG YOU IN.**

I want to thank the entire base membership for all the help , cooperation and support, that you have showed me and the rest of the officers in 2016 and I know you will continue to be supportive to the officers and base in 2017.

## **REQUIN BASE BOOSTER DRIVE**

The Requin Base is kicking off its annual booster drive. This fund raiser has always been so successful and it helps us balance our yearly budget without going into our reserves. Each year we solicit individuals, groups, and veterans organizations to support us by becoming a BOOSTER. The yearly funds that support our budget comes from membership dues, selling of USSVI calendars, candy & syrup sales, small stores and our booster drive.

There are five (5) plateaus - SILVER (\$25.00), GOLD (\$50.00), PLATINUM (\$75.00), DIAMOND (\$100.00) and NUCLEAR (any amount over \$100.00) If you belong to any organizations or clubs, they are excellent partners. And if you are working, you could ask your employer and you will be surprised when he says YES.

Over the course of the last six(6) years, we have been fortunate to have successful booster drives that we not only reach our goals, but exceeded it. We also have great support from our members who not only contributed, but solicited boosters to both their family and friends.

There is a sample letter in this SVD and you can copy and distribute to anyone who you feel would like to be a BOOSTER of the Requin Base for 2017.



HUBERT C. "HUEY" DIETRICH  
USSVI REQUIN BASE COMMANDER

213 ANDREW DRIVE, GLENSHAW, PA 15116

(412) 486-2635

hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com



January, 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

The United States Submarine Veterans of the "Requin Base" in Pittsburgh, Pa., is having our annual Booster Club Drive for 2017. There are five Plateaus - Silver (\$25.00), Gold (\$50.00), Platinum (\$75.00), Diamond (\$100.00) or Nuclear ^^^^

We are made up of submariner veterans from twenty one (21) states, with the core of our base, from the Tri-State area. We participate in community events and parades, with our float -"THE NAUTLAS". Our base activities include the "KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS)" program. We give honorary submarine hats and Certificates to boys and girls who have cancer or other medically challenging situations. This year we will be reaching out to the families of the KIDS and attempt to sponsor a day with them on board the USS REQUIN. We are also involved with the Boy Scouts, who attain the rank of EAGLE SCOUT. We present the scout, at his court of honor, a patch, certificate and a REQUIN BASE CHALLENGE COIN, honoring him for his accomplishment.

Every year on the Sunday before Memorial Day, the Requin Base conducts a memorial service on board the USS Requin, which is docked at the Carnegie Science Center. The Marine Detachment 310 of the Three River Leather-Necks and the VFW Post 9199 supply the color and honor guards. We plan on having a young lady sing the star spangle banner along with other individuals and other groups. With the help of our shipmates and supporters, we will be able to continue our programs and hopefully add more.

Please consider becoming a BOOSTER for 2017 for the Requin Submarine Base! Send Booster donation (check - payable to Requin Base).

Pride Runs Deep:

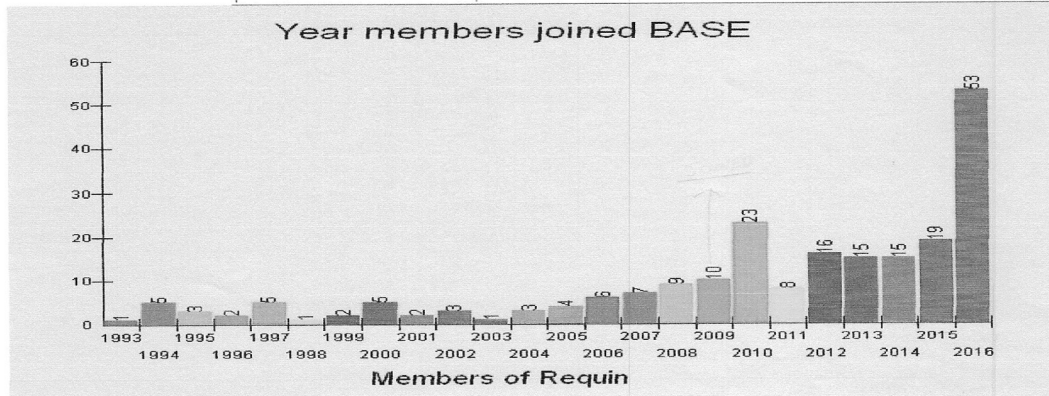
Huey Dietrich - Commander  
Requin Base  
213 Andrew Drive  
Glenshaw, Pa., 15116



Menu  
Tips

USSVI Member Demographics

Member Totals		Chart By					
# Shipmates	309	Qual Year	DOB	Year Joined	Rate	Rank	State
# w/ E-mail	132	Chart Type					
		Bar (2D)	Bar (3D)	Pie	Line		



**Requin Base Meeting Minutes**

January 14, 2017

Leetsdale, PA

**Base Commander Huey Dietrich** called the meeting to order.

**Attendees:** Martin Abel, Mike Allen, James & Jennifer Beachler, Rick & Claudia Bistyga, Eric Bookmiller, Lee & Patsy Bookwalter, Clair & Nancy Bouts, George Brown, Thomas & Deneen Calabrese, Joe Campisi, Huey & Edie Dietrich, Dick & Beverly Geyer, Bill & Donna Greenlee, Ric & Joan Guntang, Lou Hamil, Mark & Adriana Hoag, Bill & Sandra Lindsey, Bob McPherson, Vince Metz, Frank Nicotra, Chip & Sharon Porter, Harry Sills, Jeff & Eileen Simon, Gary Snail, Carl Stigers, Jack & Genny Sutherin, Don & Dolly Taskey, Mike & Tina Wyckoff.

**Base Commander Huey Dietrich:** Quotes of the day: "Submarine life is not a service it's a religion"

**Requin History:** Launched January 1, 1945. January 20, 1948 given hull classification OSSR-481 and modified to the Migrain II radar picket configuration. January 15, 1951 entered Mediterranean until May when she returned to normal operations on the US east coast and in the Caribbean. January 1, 1953 maintained her schedule of Second and Sixth Fleet operations but at the end of the year put into Philadelphia PA for extensive modernization overhaul that among other things removed her last remaining anti-aircraft cannon.

**Base Commander Huey Dietrich:** Let us at this time, with a moment of silent prayer, remember our Shipmates who made the supreme sacrifice that we may gather here in Peace. We dedicate this meeting to our Shipmates on Eternal Patrol, to perpetuate their memories in our lives and to honor our Shipmates on active duty in the service of the first line of defense of our Nation.

**Boats Lost:**

- USS SCORPION (SS 278)      January 05, 1944
- USS ARGONAUT (SS 166)    January 10, 1943
- USS SWORDFISH (SS 193)    January 12, 1945
- USS S 36 (SS 141)        January 20, 1942
- USS S 26 (SS 131)        January 24, 1942



We also honor our departed shipmate of the Requin Base, John Good and Robert Goodley. Finally let us remember all the brave submariners who died performing their duties aboard submarines, some individually and some in groups, but where the submarine itself was not lost.

**Chaplain Carl Stigers** gave the Invocation.

**Chief Of The Boat Chip Porter** led the Base in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members introduced themselves and the boats they qualified on.

**Base Secretary Jeff Simon** reported that Minutes of the last meeting were published in the SVD and the base website. With no objections, the minutes were approved as published.

**Treasurer Lee Bookwalter** gave an accounting of base assets, expenditures, and deposits. With no objections, the report was approved.

**Other Reports:**

Binnacle List: Edie Dietrich, Rick Elster, Judy Elster, Bob Gourley

Charles Tolbert and Matt Holzer went on eternal patrol in 2016

Membership stands at 222 making Requin the sixth largest USSVI base

**Storekeeper Frank Nicotra** reported on small stores available.

**Old Business:**

USS Requin SS-481 will be inducted in the submarine hall of fame on May 25, 2017 in Norfolk, VA.

**New Business:**

Meeting of Requin Board Of Directors will be held January 21, 2017 to adopt and approve our 2017 budget and the base meeting and activities schedule for 2016.

Possible new location for base meetings was discussed.

Motion to donate \$500 to USS Pittsburgh kid's deployment party was approved by the members present.

Motion to donate \$250 to Quilts Of Valor was approved by the members present.

Joe Campisi and Mike Allen to form a committee and report on purchasing a memorial for submarine veterans at the Cemetery Of The Alleghenies.

**For The Good Of The Order:**

Reports were presented regarding the Groton Base and Dallas Base.

Next Christmas luncheon is scheduled for Sunday December 3, 2017 and the North Star Kids will perform.

Base Officers for 2017 were sworn in

**Chaplain Carl Stigers** gave the Benediction and blessing of today's meal.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.

**Next meeting:** Leetsdale PA VFW at 1230 hours on February 11, 2017.

## [An Exclusive First Look At The Navy's New Fire-Retardant Coveralls](#)

[Mark D. Faram, Navy Times, January 19](#)

The Navy has approved a new underway uniform that may be issued by afloat commands later this year and would end a four-year effort to put shipboard sailors in high-quality fire-retardant clothing.

The announcement of the new coveralls – officially known as the Improved Fire Retardant Variant, or IFRV, came in an AllFleet message released Jan. 19.

The IFRV coveralls will be worn by all sailors once their ship leaves the pier and is underway. It looks nearly identical in color and design to the Navy's current poly/cotton-issue coverall, known as the FRV.

"It weighs significantly less than the current FRV fabrics, breaths more efficiently, giving sailors better moisture management and comfort," Rear Adm. Pete Stamatopoulos, the director of fleet ordnance and supply at Fleet Forces Command, told Navy Times in a Jan. 13 interview. "It also lasts twice as long as the original FRV."

For now, the new coveralls won't cost sailors a dime out of pocket. Officials say the fire-retardant gear will remain what's called "organizational clothing," which, much like flight suits, are issued when sailors need them and aren't a part of the seabag.

The new uniform is expected to become a part of every sailor's seabag once the it is in the fleet. But for now, officials say there are no plans right to replace the existing poly/cotton coveralls in a sailor's seabag. The current coveralls are not an official uniform anymore; the Navy downgraded them only for "dirty work" that would damage sailors' other working uniforms.

It's been more than 20 years since the Navy required sailors to wear fire-retardant uniforms at sea. The Navy's decision to resurrect the requirement began four years ago amid revelations that the Navy Working Uniform – while never developed to be a fire-retardant uniform – actually put sailors at risk.

Navy officials learned of the dangers after an October 2012 test showed that the Navy Working Uniform Type I's melted when exposed to open flames. In fact, the uniform – made of a 50/50 nylon-cotton blend – "will burn robustly until completely consumed," according to the report from the Navy Clothing and Textile Research Facility (NCTRF) in Natick,

Massachusetts.

In search of a safer uniform, the Navy in 2014 first purchased off-the-shelf coveralls for shipboard issue while also developing a long-term solution with an original design. But this first Fire Retardant Variant, called the FRV in the fleet, fell short in both comfort and durability in the eyes of the rank and file wearing them.

"There were complaints from sailors that the FRV material was too heavy and hot for many environments ... so hot that, in talks with sailors, many said they would go through two or more changes during the day," Stamatopoulos said.

"And it didn't stand up well over time and especially laundering," he said.

Back to the drawing board went the textile researchers at NCTRF and by last summer two new prototypes were issued to 700 sailors on the amphibious assault ship Kearsarge, the destroyer Carney and the fast attack submarine Kearsarge.

The biggest change over the original FRV was the material – both test versions were made from a flame resistant "tri-fiber" blend material."

"The IFRV was designed not only with the safety of our sailors in mind but also comfort and durability," said Adm. Phil Davidson, who commands the Norfolk, Virginia-based Fleet Forces Command. "Shipboard wearability and functionality was of extreme importance with the development of the IFRV," Davidson said.

The new coverall was designed to last nearly twice as long as the original FRV. An added benefit that the new coveralls' material offers is arc-flash protection, a significant upgrade from the current uniform's material.

In the past, the Navy issued special coveralls to sailors working near equipment that posed a risk of an arc flash, which is a fast-moving, high-intensity electrical fire that is potentially deadly. Typically only electricians got those special protective uniforms, yet with the ships' exposed wiring and plumbing, technically everyone is at risk.

The new material also meets the lint-free requirements of the submarine community, meaning that the fleet now has one coverall that meets the needs of both surface and submarine crews.

The IFRV's requirement is that flame-resistant fabric "must self-extinguish within 2 seconds after exposure to a standard flame ignition source for 12 seconds," according to Amy Bradshaw, a supervisory textile technologist, on the research and development team at NCTRF.

"The IFRV fabric, tested after 1 and 50 shipboard launderings met this requirement," she said.

Bradshaw said that it is difficult to quantify a specific amount of time that a flame resistant material can be exposed to flame without igniting. But in general, when exposed to flame, they should resist ignition and self-extinguish almost immediately upon removal from the ignition source.

It will take much of this fiscal year, Stamatopoulos said, to get the existing FRV contracts reworked and the production of the new IFRV underway. But he expected the uniform to start showing up in fleet inventories possibly sometime in the first quarter of fiscal 2018, though that's subject to change.

"It won't be an immediate replacement, but it will really happen as older FRV inventories are depleted, the IFRV will take their place," Stamatopoulos said. "This will happen naturally on a size-by-size basis."

Exact details on when the coveralls will become available will be announced once production begins.

#### More Uniform Considerations

During the new coverall's testing, the Navy also looked at a new flight suit design as well. But that didn't get much love from the sailors, despite the initial cool factor.

"The zippered pocket locations were not optimal for most sailors and they felt the same zippers were uncomfortable if you had to lie down on them while working," said Capt. Mark Runstrom, the director of Fleet Supply Operations and Services at FFC. "Sailors chose functionality over looks."

Overall, 91 percent of sailors involved in the test thought the IFRV traditional coverall was an improvement over the FRV version, but only 68 percent thought the same for the flight suit version, Navy officials said.

In the focus groups and in feedback from online surveys, sailors' feedback was overwhelmingly positive in favor of the IFRV material and favorable toward the traditional coverall design. Of those surveyed, 89 percent thought the IFRV coverall looked better than the original FRV; 86 percent felt it was more durable; 91 percent said it was more comfortable; and 85 percent thought it was cooler in hot climates.

Sailors also expressed interest in the idea of a two-piece underway uniform – and the positive feedback was enough to prompt Navy leadership to take a look.

Development is underway for what's being called a "maritime two-piece fire retardant variant." The NCTRF is now working on prototypes and fleet focus groups are again expected to be used to review the designs in the near future.

Sources told Navy Times last fall that this uniform could resemble a hybrid of the solid blue working uniform the Coast Guard currently wears and the Navy's NWU Type III's.

This, officials say, will give CO's more options for sailor comfort in hot environments with the possible removal of the blouse. Making this possible will be a layering concept that will bring into play replacing T-shirts as undergarments with under layers made of flame resistant, drifire-style moisture wicking jerseys, the NAVADMIN said.

Should the Navy go the two-piece route down the line, it will most likely impact the seabag. Officials told Navy Times that the final seabag requirement for the NWU Type III's won't be set until the FR two-piece idea is approved or nixed.

The survey feedback and test data central to FFC commander Davidson's decision to designate the IFRV coverall as

the underway uniform for the Navy. “In the end, the data drove the decision,” Stamatopoulos said. “This truly was a deckplate-driven wear test and the decision is what the sailors thought best.”

#### First Time In 20 Years

The move will also bring the Navy full circle to May 13, 1996, when the decision was made by then-Chief of Naval Operations Jay Johnson to eliminate the seabag requirement of four pairs of fire retardant dungarees – which was then the working uniform for E-6 and below.

It was a calculated risk, but one that at the time the data supported.

The decision was based partially on cost as the Navy touted the move would save \$12 million. But two other factors came into play as well.

At the time, all new uniforms underwent flame tests. But actual shipboard, fires were rare and most sailors weren't at risk, the studies conclude.

On top of that, FR uniforms of the day were problematic at best, costing 60 percent more than non FR standard uniforms. Besides, multiple tests in the 1990's showed the Navy was struggling with the fact that the uniforms would lose their fire retardant ratings after very few shipboard washings.

So in 1996, after a 14-year effort to bring consistent fire retardant uniforms to the fleet, the Navy cut ties with their blanket shipboard FR requirement. At the time, issuing fire retardant coveralls to engineers and other sailors in jobs that put them at risk was already common practice, so officials noted – those at greater risk were covered.

The move created some initial pushback in Congress, but in the end, lawmakers went along with the Navy's decision, too.

But with the 2012 revelations of just how flammable the NWU's and with them, the poly/cotton issue coveralls – all the same issues came up.

This time, Gortney decided it was time the Navy revisited the 20-year old arguments of FR necessity and especially light of modern fabric technological advances.

“Although the likelihood of a major conflagration is low – 1-2 per year – when it does happen, the consequences could be severe to fatal,” Gortney wrote on May 29, 2013 in a message that officially brought back the shipboard FR requirement.

In defining what that conflagration meant, he described it as “a fire or explosion of such size as to be beyond the control of the repair parties and may be a threat to the survival of the ship.”

In announcing his plan to field FR clothing to the fleet and begin more research and development in the field going forward he made the decision to err on the benefit of all sailors – not just a few.

“The maximum protection to cover all possible contingencies and scenarios would include the issuance of flame resistant clothing for all sailors assigned to shipboard environments.”

## Notes

If you change email addresses please advise Huey, Booky or myself. Email addresses and phone numbers on first page.

Shipmate Tom Stewart went on Eternal Patrol on the 2nd of January 2017. The base was not notified, therefore we missed his funeral. Please when someone is in the hospital, sick or passes away, notified either Huey Dietrich, Carl Stigers, Rick Elster or myself. The phone numbers and emails on the first page.