



THE RED SHIRT



PEACE THROUGH POWER - WE ARE THE "ARMS" OF THE FLEET

Newsletter No. 53

May 1994

GUEST SPEAKER



**REAR ADMIRAL
ROBERT SUTTON**

Rear Admiral Robert Sutton entered the U.S. Naval Academy from Coral Gables, FL, and was commissioned upon graduation in 1964. His initial assignment was as Damage Control Assistant on USS McCaffery (DD 860) followed by an 'in country' tour as a Naval Advisor to Vietnamese Navy Coastal Group for one year.

Lieutenant Junior Grade Sutton then served as Executive Officer of USS PINNACLE (MSO 462) from 1968-1970. An assignment to the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School followed

(See GUEST Page 2)

From the President

It's time, you should have your travel plans and ready to go to St. Louis for the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen's annual symposium/convention. This year promises to be one of reunion, business, and great social activities. If you haven't made your reservations or travel arrangements yet it's not too late, lots of information in this copy of The Red Shirt.

As you can see our guest speaker this year is Rear Admiral Robert Sutton, Commander of the newly commissioned Naval Ordnance Center (NOC). Admiral Sutton is a strong advocate of the Aviation Ordnance community and promises to be a most supportive and interesting speaker. I would like to express my appreciation to Admiral Sutton for his support and time in being our guest speaker for this years convention. It was my pleasure to present Admiral Sutton and the Naval Ordnance Center a Association of Aviation Ordnancemen plaque on a recent trip to Indian Head and he expressed that it would be suitably displayed.

During that same trip I presented to MR Ed Kratovil with a framed honorary membership certificate. MR Kratovil is also a very strong advocate of the Aviation Ordnance community and his support and participation in the Aviation Ordnance world is much appreciated.

I would also like to say the Auxiliary is also planning on a great convention this year. They are a great support to the association and continue to grow and support our charter and focus on the many great programs we have the scholarship program in particular. My thanks to all of you Auxiliary members for your support. I would also like to let everyone know that the Auxiliary members are not just family of Aviation Ordnancemen but anyone who supports the Aviation Ordnance community in a professional manner and is sponsored by a regular member.

The reports that I have been getting from the chapters indicate that alot of activity has been going on and as a result we have recruited a few new members. All AO's should belong to this great organization. As I have said before it is

(PRESIDENT Page 2)

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEN

President

CDR Gary Laun
11029 - Ochre Court
San Diego, CA 92128
Hm (619) 679 - 7342
Wk (619) 545 - 2794

Address Corrections to

Secretary/Treasurer

Billy Earl
145 - North Kootenia Creek
Stevensville, MT 59870
(406) 777 - 5891

Newsletter Editor

Jeff Sassone
41442 - Avenida De La Reina
Temecula, CA 92592
Hm (909) 676 - 6242
Wk (619) 545 - 2777

GUEST. . .

(Continued from Page 1)

with Lieutenant Sutton earning an M.S. degree in Operations Research in March 1972. A two-year tour as Weapons Officer in USS WAINWRIGHT (CG 28) followed prior to assignment in the TERRIER/TALOS Department of the Naval Ships Weapons Systems Engineering Station, Port Hueneme, CA, from 1975-1977.

Lieutenant Commander Sutton served as Executive Officer of USS MITSCHER (DDG 35) and subsequently USS CORONADO (LPD 11) during the period 1977-1979. A tour in the Naval Sea Systems Command, Long Range Missile Systems Division for two years preceded his assuming command of USS PREBLE (DDG 46). During Commander Sutton's tour from August 1982 to November 1984, PREBLE deployed to South America and the Indian Ocean and won the ARLEIGH BURKE award for improvement in combat readiness.

Captain Sutton then served in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations as Head, Anti-Air Warfare Branch, Surface Combat Systems Division in 1985-1986 prior to assuming duties as Commanding Officer Pre-Commissioning Unit THOMAS S. GATES (CG 51), in September 1988. After commissioning in August 1987, GATES completed her workups and deployed to the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, where she conducted an historic port visit to Sevastopol, USSR, in August 1989.

Upon completion of his tour in USS THOMAS S. GATES (CG 51), Captain Sutton assumed duties in September 1989 as Director, Fleet Introduction and Lifetime Support Division of the AEGIS Shipbuilding Program (PMS 400). Captain Sutton was selected for Rear Admiral in December 1989. He assumed duties as Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, Pearl Harbor, HI, in June 1990. In August 1990, he was forward deployed as Commander, U.S. Naval Logistics and Support Force (COMUSNAVLOGSUPFOR) in Bahrain in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Upon disestablishment of COMUSNAVLOGSUPFOR in April 1991, Rear Admiral Sutton, in a Navy component command restructuring, was designated as Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Rear. In September 1991, he was assigned as Commander, Training Command, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Rear Admiral Sutton assumed duties of Commander, Naval Ordnance Center in October 1993.

Rear Admiral Sutton's awards include the Legion of Merit (four awards), the Bronze Star with Combat "V", the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), the Combat Action Ribbon, the Navy Commendation Medal and the Medal of Bahrain, Degree One.

Rear Admiral Sutton has two children, Laney and Bob.

PRESIDENT. . .

(Continued from Page 1)

one of the few ratings that is not sponsored by but is recognized by the Chief of Naval Operations you should be proud to be a part of it.

Chapter 8 had a great gathering at the Moose Lodge on Mirimar Road and any of the ordies in San Diego that did not attend missed an good time with a open bar, chow, and dancing. Thanks to Kenny Foster and the Ordies who pitched

in \$50.00 a head that made it a great social gathering. Oh, by the way Chapter 8 is planning on this being an annual event sometimes around the birthday of the AO Rating. Chapter 4 in Tidewater also had their annual redshirt roundup/camp that has always produced some good stories see Stu, Max or Don Howard at the convention this year for the details of their camp.

I would like to express my thanks to all of the chapters that have active for The Association and encourage some of the chapters that haven't been so active to get involved, again we miss your involvement. I would like to also encourage the Marines to begin working on bringing back your own chapters as you are also a welcome asset to this organization.

In closing I would encourage every command to submit your candidates/selections for the Aviation Ordnanceman of the Year and get your packages in as soon as possible. I would also like to see more scholarship applications this year. This is an election year and I would like to thank everyone for a great three years as president of your Association and I look forward to continued involvement in this great organization. The Association is dependent on the time and effort of its members and chapters and we have many dedicated and fine professionals that are always there when you need them and this includes the Auxiliary. Once again thank you and I'll see you in St. Louis.

Gary Laun
President

1994 CONVENTION REPORT

The Hotel is set, the registration room has been assigned, committee rooms have been assigned, agenda is prepared, now all we need is **YOU AND YOUR GUESTS**. I Just checked with the hotel and I don't see that you have filled the rooms that we blocked for you. **ORDIES WHERE ARE YOU???** If you haven't made your reservation yet (and most of you have not) please ensure that you do make them by the **24 of May 1994**. After that date the Hotel will no longer keep our block reserved. Also, if you plan on coming early and staying later, the hotel will book you at The Association's rates, but you must make your reservations **NLT 24 May 1994**.

Despite what you hear, we in the Midwest are in no danger of being swept away by flood waters. We are currently experiencing our normal, above normal, spring rains, but unless we have a repeat of last year there should be no problem with flooding. Just because the Missouri and Mississippi rivers run through or border Missouri every part of Missouri is not impacted by heavy rains. So lets not hear any excuses that you are not going to attend because of your concern about flooding. Heavy rain here normally has about as much effect on us as the effect of heavy waves on the Pacific coast has to Death Valley.

I have to say that I am disappointed to hear, via the rumor mill that a lot of you from the West Coast are not planning on attending this year. I've heard a variety of reasons from the distance to far too many one armed Grandmas coming to town with two suitcases, just remember that the convention is being held in St. Louis this year to get more of the membership from around the country to participate and not to

discourage the participation of the West Coast members.

It is with regret that I must report to you that the state of Missouri did not pass the gambling referendum during the recent election. However, there is still Riverboat gambling available on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River.

Your convention committee is holding meetings to decide upon what type of tours to set up, what type of entertainment, menu, and all the logistical problems that are involved with setting up a convention to ensure that you enjoy yourself. However, we need your help in letting us know what your druthers are. We are going to go ahead and set up at least one Riverboat gambling cruise. This cruise will be two hours in duration (that is time on the boat on the river). Pickup will be at the Hotel, take you to the boat, buffet type lunch on the boat and return to the hotel, total time should be 3? hours. We need to get some feed back from you on this. We are looking at two (2) different cruise and both include transportation, ticket for boarding, and a lunch, they are Deli of a Deal, \$9.95 (sandwich) and the Buffet cruise at \$12.95. We are also going to use school buses for transportation for tours. There is no trip that your committee is looking at that is longer than 30 to 40 minutes. Hiring regular motor coaches (Grey Hound type) is cost prohibited.

Looking forward to seeing you all, and remember **"MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS ORDIE, MEET ME AT THE BAR"**. Your committee is looking forward to serve you, **BE THERE!**

Jerry Gannon

1994 Convention Committee Chairman

From the Desk of the Secretary/Treasurer

Can you believe it, another newsletter already? Jeff is putting them out so fast they almost seem monthly. This is it, the last newsletter before the convention in St. Louis. This is a great opportunity for you folks in the heart land to attend the convention and see some of the shipmates that you haven't seen in a long time. In conversation with the "Prez" last week, he was little concerned about attendance at this year's convention. I to, was concerned about holding a convention for sailors so far from any great body of water (we are not including the Midwest flooding), but what I have found is that, like me, a lot of you settled about as far from the ocean as you possibly could. I have even had an inquiry about setting up a chapter in the Minnesota area. Some just returned to their roots and some just finally found that dream place to put down roots. At any rate, there are ordies spread through out this great land and a whole lot of you live within spitting distance of St. Louis. So put on your traveling shoes once more and be there.

Good news this time about returned/forwarded mail cost, it is down 50% for newsletter #52 compared to previous editions of the newsletter. Thank you very much to those of you who have sent in your change of addresses. There is still plenty of room for improvement but we are getting better.

Winner of the membership drive, without a doubt, this time goes to Chapter 62. Hands down, AO1 Clovis Ash Jr. has submitted the most new memberships since I took over this job. He has submitted over 70 new member applications

since the beginning of this year. Super job, Clovis and Chapter 62! Keep up the good work.

Now for some bad news. Some of your chapter officers that have been elected and some of our Chapters that were established in accordance with the by-laws of The Association are not living up to their commitment. Now, those of you who have sailed with me know that I am not at all diplomatic. This is one of those times! When I accepted this job, I sent out a letter of introduction to all of the chapters. In that letter I stated that I would work with you to make this Association even better that it is already. I also said I would not pull any punches. So, on 14 January 1994 I sent a letter to the last known Secretary/Treasurers of all the chapters. If I did not have a good name or address to send it to, I sent it to either the last known president of that chapter or the current weapons officer of the ship or station where the chapter was established. In this letter I spelled out exactly what the duties and responsibilities of the chapter secretary/treasurers are. I also stated that I needed a response within 90 days from those concerned. To date the following chapters have not responded:

Chapter 5 China Lake, CA

Chapter 13 El Centro, CA

Chapter 26 Kuwait

Chapter 65 USS Enterprise CVN-65

Chapter 66 USS America CV-66

Chapter 70 USS Carl Vinson CVN-70

Chapters 5, 13, 65, 66 and 70 you are in violation of By-Laws Article IX, Section 8 in that you have shown no activity for over one (1) year. Chapter 26 is rapidly approaching the one (1) year mark. I need you annual financial inputs **NOW!** We must file our Federal Tax report and I cannot do so with out your inputs. You are using the tax exempt number, so I must have your reports. **GET THEM IN NOW!!**

Lastly, I must apologize to those members who mad "Gunner" and LDO from this last selection board. I am no longer privy to message traffic and I didn't start my subscription to Navy Times soon enough to see who was selected. Congratulation to you all. I do have the list of Senior and Master Chief Petty Officers who are members and they are as follows:

E-8

John Chandler
Ernest Copeland
Gary Dryer
Harold Gutierrez
Charles Libby
Reginald Swift
Terry Wilkerson

Joel Clayton
Timothy Cox
Walter Gould
Ed Hattabaugh
Michael Murphy
Gregory Walker

E-9

Larry Adkinson
Dave Pietri

Robert Miller
Jerry Williams

Some very familiar names on these two lists. Congratulation to all of you. See you in St. Louis!

Billy Earl
Secretary/Treasurer

Triple A O's News

The 1994 Convention is not to many weeks away in St. Louis, MO. I am looking forward to seeing all of you, this includes guests of the Association members that are non-members of the Auxiliary. There are so many things to do in the St. Louis area, including Riverboat gambling. Auxiliary members will be needed to assist with registration. Anyone wishing to help please come to the registration area and let us know.

There will again be some items for sale by the Auxiliary and raffle item/s. I am sure you will be quite pleased with the item/s to be raffled off. Last year we presented The Association with the largest donation to the Scholarship Fund, again. I am sure you would like to keep our record intact.

On Thursday June 16th there will be an informal meeting of the Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen. I would like to extend an invitation to other members of the Auxiliary to also attend this meeting. It will give you an idea of how the Officers and Board of Directors, cover the items for the agenda of the General Business Meeting on Saturday. It is also the time to present to the Officers and Board members any ideas you may have for fund raising, get acquainted socials, or complaints.

This year's elections will be for President and two members of the Board of Directors. I hope there are several of you that are interested in making the Auxiliary grow and will run for office. If you are interested or you know of someone please contact the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Suzette Roberts, at 487 East Spruce Avenue, Lemoore, CA 93245 or myself.

I have heard that some of our auxiliary members have become active in the chapters in their areas. This is great, it is what we are all about. The meaning of Auxiliary according to Webster is: "Giving assistance or support, aiding, helping" or "A group of organization that assists or is supplementary to a larger group." In our case I would like to add a new meaning "A way to see old friends and to meet and make new ones."

Once again, let me say we are looking forward to a well attended Convention this year. Bring your walking shoes.

Kathy Gannon
AAAO President

Vice-President Speaks

Hope everyone has received their AAO newsletter and been spreading the word about the 1994 AAO Convention at the Holiday Inn Westport in St. Louis, MO. The Gannon's have been hard at work setting up everything, so that we can all have a great time. If you haven't already, get busy and make your reservations by calling the hotel or call Point Loma World Travel, Inc., Jim Thomas, and let him make your travel and hotel arrangements for you. Also, don't forget to mail your convention reservation application to the National

Secretary/Treasurer, Billy Earl, so that we can get a head count for the Convention Committee. Hope to see you all there.

The National Secretary/Treasurer article in the last newsletter talked about membership and gave some numbers which indicate that we need everybody to pay their dues and recruit at least one new or old member.

LET US ALL SUPPORT THE ASSOCIATION!

Note for CDR Ray Ramirez: Beverly said that I can't pick on you in the newsletter anymore.

Chuck Onken
Vice-President

More Auxiliary Notes

Hooray for the auxiliary members! We have had a banner month this March and April is shaping up nicely. First, let us warmly welcome our three newest members, all from the San Diego Area, they are: Dawn Plagman, Helga Heidt, and Teddie Mach. We are grateful for their support and participation.

Second, a huge **THANK YOU** to: Tom & Janet Sawyer, Cathy Hall, Lee Hendricks, Dorothy Straddeck, Lois Wilson, Nell Ovre, Doris Irving, Stella Collins, Barbara Mallory, Patty Stokes, Kate Sawyer, Sandra Howard, Kathy Gannon, Nancy Richardson, Frances Sorenson, Sandy Taylor, Denise Walecki, Betty Crow and Marlene Wales, who have all contributed very generously to the scholarship fund. The Auxiliary is far ahead of our scholarship drive for the same time last year and these donations are the reason why.

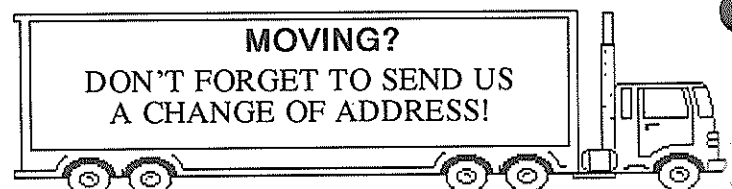
Third, another big thank you to all those members (over half) who have responded to the auxiliary's early June billing. It has really been very helpful to because most of our renewals come in June at the same exact time as the convention and that makes very confused paper work. Therefore if you haven't sent in your membership dues yet, and are able to, PLEASE DO. Thanks.

Fourth, sincere appreciation to Patty Stokes and Stu Carson who are selling raffle tickets in the Chapter 4 realm for a statue (from the old mission) of St. Barbara. All proceeds to go to the Auxiliary's scholarship fund.

And Finally - the best for last, my own personal thank you to all the San Diego Chapter 8 members and Auxiliary members who purchased raffle tickets for our own ST Barbara (the raffle to be held May 14 at the picnic) and for their help and advise on several craft items we are creating for the national convention. You have all been very supportive to me and we're going to make the auxiliary donation to the scholarship the biggest ever. **THANKS!**

See you in St. Louis.

Mary Ann Laun
AAAO Secretary/Treasurer



Chapter 1

Lemoore, CA

A lot has been happening around Chapter One. Our fishing trip was a huge success. After a failed first attempt, due to inclement weather, we finally managed to head out to sea on 1 April with a total count of 18 Ordies, family and friends. A grand time was had by all. The sea was a little rough even for the seasoned sailor. If you were over twelve and didn't take dramamine before we set sail you were after a couple of hours you were praying to the Fish God you know Ralph, but being good Ordies we managed to hurl and reel in fish at the same time. He who hurled the most managed to catch the biggest fish. Just ask Dave Moore the winner of the \$90 for the biggest fish of the day. But not to be outdone Rusty Stober who did remember to take dramamine caught the most with a final count of 28 fish, some of which he probably should have thrown back due to size. The young lads and one lassie were all laughing at the adults because we were chumming the Fish God Ralph. It seems the sea state didn't affect them. But as I said before we still all had a really good time. Right Bob. I know he is looking forward to the next trip.

We still are planning on our upcoming river float in late June or July. If there is any water in the Kings Rivers this summer. Other events coming up include our camping trip to Hume Lake the weekend of 15-17 July and the annual picnic at Jack Stone's barn. We were luckily to get his place. Date for the picnic is 27 August set your calendar if you are in the Lemoore area drop in.

We still have the highway walk every quarter. Next walk day is 21 May 0800 meet at Security parking lot. Also, a car wash in Hanford in April and one in Lemoore in May.

Randy Hastings, the blind gut we sponsored two years ago for a seeing eye dog come by to our meeting in March. He gave us a brief on how he and his dog are getting along. It sure does our hearts good to know we were able to help someone who really needed it. Helping those in need is what our organization is about the and developing a better relationship between all Ordies. Until next newsletter.

J.R. Wheat
President Chapter 1

Chapter 4

Tidewater, VA

A belated birthday wish to the Aviation Ordnance Rating from your fellow Ordies in Tidewater. Chapter 4 has a busy schedule this year and we are looking forward to seeing old shipmates at the convention in June.

The Chapter held annual elections for all offices and Board of Directors in February. Once again we will be ably guided by our President, LCDR Max Snock, USN, RET. Our new Vice-President is AOCS Mike Jarrett, USN. and Stu Carson, AOCS, USN, RET will be the Secretary/Treasurer for two more years. Because of our busy schedule and goals to meet, we have expanded our Board of Directors and they are: Bob Borges, AOCS, USN, RET; Dawn Sealy-Crosby, ex-AO2, LCDR Don Howard, USN, RET; AOC Joe Maha-

chek, USN; AOC Chris Perkins, USN; CDR Mel Swartz, USN; and CWO4 Tom Williams, USN, RET.

We bid a temporary farewell to our former Vice-President and new Ensign Paul Hamann, he did an outstanding job in the Chapter and will return to VF-102 as the "Gunner" upon completion of 'knife & fork' school in Pensacola. Unfortunately we had to bid a farewell to CWO4 Jim Doran, USN, RET whose civilian company recently transferred him to the sunshine state, Jim's new homeport is Pompano Beach, FL. Our condolences go out to two Chapter 4 members who recently lost their moms, John R. Hughes, AOCS, USN, RET and CDR Mike Porter, USN. CDR Mike Porter recently fleeted-up to Weapons Officer on USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71).

Many congratulations are in order for Chapter 4 members on commissionings, promotions, advancements and new jobs. Commissioned to Ensign or CWO2: AOC Joe Mahachek, AOC Joe Longwell, and AOC Mike Parks. Promotions to Major: Captain Ray Rowland, USMC and Captain Randy Rishell, USMC. Promotions to AOCS: AOC 'Sam' Libby, AOC Mike Fashion, AOC William G. Maloney, AOC Scot Reis, and AOC Greg Walker. We also have two new OHO's, they are: LCDR John Wiley on the USS Eisenhower (CVN-69) and LT David Holley on USS Roosevelt (CVN-71). A well done to all, keep steaming and keep it safe out there.

Mark your calendars for Chapter 4 "FOD Walkdowns" for 1994. Our highway clean up dates for the two mile section of London Bridge Road are 23 April, 11 June, 20 August, and 22 October. Muster for coffee at 0900 and the safety brief 0930 at VFW Post 392. Come out and join in, be a part of the "Award Winning" cleanup team. We always hold a picnic with beer, soda, and sea-stories after the cleanup. Safety is paramount, because of the 55 MPH speed limit and Virginia Beach regulations - No minors under 16 can participate.

Congratulations to the AIRLANT commands who recently won Battle Efficiency awards from the Tidewater Area and they are: USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71), VF-32 and VA-36. The famed weapons "Black W" was awarded to three ships this competitive cycle and they are: USS Saratoga (CV-60), USS America (CV-66), and USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67).

On a sad note, Battle 'E' winner Attack Squadron 36 disestablished during March. The 'Roadrunners' will be missed.

Red Shirt Ranch IV, plans are coming together for 6, 7, and 8 May at Seneca Campgrounds and we are expecting between 60 and 70 folks to attend and this campout should be big! More on this during the convention.

Chapter 4's appreciation goes out to the nice write up Chapter 26 in Kuwait had in The Red Shirt #52. Helping your chapter establish was an easy task and the end result is what counts, bringing many more Ordies and associate supporters into the "Fold". Best of luck to Chapter 26 in their endeavors.

Meet us in St. Louis and in the mean time Chapter 4 meets at VFW Post 392 at 1900 on the third Wednesday of the month. Come on out, join up, and join in. June's meeting will be a week earlier on 8 June because of the Convention.

Stu Carson, AOCS, USN, RET
Secretary/Treasurer, Chapter 4

Chapter 8

San Diego, CA

Greetings fellow Ordies and members of the Auxiliary from Chapter 8 in beautiful San Diego, CA.

On 26 March, 20 Ordies led by Ken Foster donated \$50.00 each and had a party (Ordie Bash) at the Mira Mesa Moose Lodge. All AOs in the San Diego area, near and far, were invited. Over 200 people were in attendance and everyone had a super great time. Chapter 8 would like to thank Ken Foster and his crew of 19 volunteers for their financial support and master minding of such a glorious event. We would also like to thank the Mira Mesa Moose Lodge #2108 for their support, camaraderie, and use of their lodge.

The Chapter 8 annual picnic will be held on Saturday 14 May, starting at 10 AM and going until 5 PM at Admiral Baker Field, Area Seven. Plan on coming out and having a good time. All AOs (active duty, retired and former) and dependents are invited. Again this year, we have our annual raffle and tickets are available for a \$300.00 grand prize, tickets are \$1.00 each or 12 tickets for \$10.00, the drawing will be held at the picnic so you have plenty of time to get your lucky ticket and at the same time enjoy, what promises to be, an outstanding picnic. There will be games for the kids, it is a family picnic, there will also be memorabilia available at unbelievable prices so you can proudly show off the emblem of The Association of Aviation Ordnancemen.

Chapter 8 would like to wish a safe and happy journey to those of you attending this year's convention in St. Louis.

Ken C. Eubanks
President, Chapter 8

Chapter 9

Jacksonville, FL

Greetings again from the members of Chapter 9. As we approach the warm days of summer and the end of the school year, many of our membership are looking forward with great anticipation to a trip to the National Convention. AO1 Mike Evans has done an exceptional job in lining up a charter bus for this event though he isn't sure that he will be able to make the trip. Mike's willingness to accept any tasking which is beneficial to the Chapter is commendable.

A Chapter 9 Picnic is scheduled to be held at the NAS Jacksonville Marina picnic area on the 23rd of April. Our party committee of AOC Tom Rose and ever faithful AO1 John Burgess will surely make this a memorable occasion. We are inviting all ordies in the area to join with us and bring their families as there are plans for kids games and a fishing event. Hopefully we will be able to recruit some new members during this event.

For the past couple of months we have had discussion at our meetings concerning having spouses attend a monthly meeting. President Mitchell feels that it will be an excellent opportunity for some of the spouse to become acquainted, which should enhance the turnout at the picnic. So our flyers being distributed for the April meeting are extending this

invitation.

We regret to report that AOC Dick Gallagher, a former manager of the NAS Jacksonville CPO club, has recently been called to join the staff of the supreme commander. Our sincere condolences go out to his family.

As reported in the last Red Shirt, the Gannons have surely been busy, planning for this year's convention. We should all be very thankful for all the hard work and efforts of both Jerry and Kathy have contributed to our organization over the years. I know that not being able to attend the convention this year, I will miss out on a very good time. Too bad I can't "meet you at the bar, Jerry", hopefully a big group from our Chapter will.

Our Jacksonville area commands have recently been visited by the Department of Defense Explosive Safety Board representative, Captain James Evans and Mr Larry Webster. The survey at NAS Jacksonville went extremely well and hopefully other commands received favorable comments as was extended to our Commanding Officer, Captain Roy Resavage. Additionally, April 20 has been designated Explosive Safety Standdown Day at NAS Jacksonville and an invitation has been extended to CDR P.D. Driver, former NAS Jacksonville Weapons Officer, and presently the Commander of the Ordnance Handling, Safety and Assistance Team (OHSAT), to be our guest speaker for this occasion.

"Where are they now?" Six names appearing on the listing in the last Red Shirt are, or have been, members of Chapter 9. I will forward as much info as I can find on these personnel to Billy Earl and urge other Chapter secretaries to do likewise.

Bob Hall
Chapter 9 PAO

Pensacola Chapter

The Pensacola Chapter of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen was established and the first monthly meeting was held on 3 February 1994. There were 18 members present. Elections were held.

LCDR Carl Phipps - President
CWO2 Joel Miller, USMC - Vice President
CWO4 Bill Young, USMC(Ret) - Treasurer
AOCM Eric Jansen - Secretary

Board of Governors

GySgt Gary Rossow, USMC - President
AOC Victor Macnamara (Ret)
LtCol John Sweeney, USMC(Ret)
CDR Phil Milling
AO1 Kenneth Lewis
AO3 Bobby Richter
AO1 Derek Boykin

Since establishing the chapter, we have had great participation from the retired community. It's great talking to these fellows and hearing some of the old sea stories. The word is slowly but surely getting out about our chapter and we hope to see more retired AO's at future meetings.

Some of our future plans are fund raisers for the scholarship fund, clean and green and an ordie picnic sometime this summer.

The Aviation Ordnance Officer's Career Progression course (AOOCP), Ordnance University as we fondly call it, continues to roll along. We will commence our first Level II class 18 April. We appreciate your continued support for the school. LCDR Dave Lepard will be departing 1 May 94 for the USS Kitty. He's gonna be the OHNO! AOCM Jansen will be retiring around Oct/Nov 95. If you're interested in a rewarding instructor tour, call the school and let us know. A/V 922-8626/4230.

We are anticipating that the AO museum will eventually move to Pensacola and hopefully we can find space for it at the National Museum of Naval Aviation More on this later.

Congratulations to AOCS Hattabaugh on his recent promotion to Senior Chief.

That's all for now. IYAOYAS.

Eric Jansen AOCM USN
Secretary Pensacola Chapter

Chapter 21

Fallon, NV

"ORDNANCETOWN U.S.A."

Another year has come and gone, more meetings, new members, seeing old friends, and making new ones. It has been a good year, so far. Chapter 21 would like to welcome a few new members to our Association: CWO4 Lonnie Giedd, LCDR Joe Hilyer - the new Gun Boss, AO1 Peter Parry - the new Secretary/Treasurer for Chapter 21, and AOAN Albrecht, welcome to our team. Since January things here at Ordnancetown U.S.A. have been busy. CVW-15 came through 4 Jan - 4 Feb, CVW-3 1 - 25 Mar, and CVW-2 27 Mar - 16 Apr. Then there will be a little break before the Marines arrive, with MALS-11 and MALS-13 here from 1 - 21 May. These guys go through some ordnance. Send us some help. Well, that's how things have been in beautiful Fallon, NV. Hope everyone has a good time at the next convention. See ya!

AO1 Peter Parry
Secretary/Treasurer Chapter 21

Chapter 68

USS NIMITZ (CVN 68)

Chapter 68 currently has 47 active members in good standing. We welcome into The Association two new members this month, CDR Butler and AO1 (AW/SW) Pesavento. We're building our membership through social functions and our new local newsletter. Chapter 68's annual can food drive was very successful in providing assistance to 12 needy families this past holiday season. Thanks to all who helped these families in their time of need during this special season.

With NIMITZ' Captain's cup competition just over the horizon, Chapter 68 will sponsor the weapons department softball team this year and has great expectations for them.

NIMITZ made her move into extended availability for

repairs in January. Weapons department has been very busy since, G-1 division is overhauling all EE reach and tier forklifts in Manchester, WA (just a few miles from the drydock), Aviation Weapons Support Equipment is overhauling all our support equipment (with 'white' paint). G-2 division is reworking all the ship's magazine sprinkler systems, while G-3 is overhauling all NIMITZ' magazines. G-4 has planned major repairs and alterations to the weapons elevators and hydraulic power units. A very "big" job for us on NIMITZ.

Our Chapter started a monthly sandwich sale to help us grow financially, the first sale in February was a huge success. If you're in the area on payday stop by for the best "SUB" sandwich in the fleet. We look forward to visiting with you, at the 19th annual convention this year. Some of us have begun planning to attend. I know it will be a huge success as always.

Dennis Stacy
Secretary/Treasurer, Chapter 68

Chapter S-87

Millington, TN

Greetings from Millington, TN and Chapter S-87. The chapter has been real busy trying to recruit new members. Welcome aboard to AOCS Joe Svoboda, GYSGT Roy Uvalle, AOC Gregory Sailer, AOC Max Wynne, AOC Reginald Swift, SSGT Ken Koenig, AO1 Jim Stephens, AO1 John Stigler, AOC (RET) Fred McDonough and AOC (RET) Steven Scarbrough.

The 68th Birthday of the Aviation Ordnance Rating was celebrated on 2 March 1994. AO 'A1' School had the traditional cake cutting ceremony. The youngest and oldest Naval and Marine Corps personnel were selected to cut the cakes. The oldest Navy member was AO1 Donald Schulz and the youngest was AR Denis Berger. The oldest Marine was GYSGT Roy Uvalle and the youngest was PFC Robert Sampson. All AO 'A1' Staff personnel and Chapter members were invited to meet at VFW post 7175 in Millington for refreshments afterwards. All who attended had a great time.

The chapter did its 3rd quarter FOD walkdown on 26 March, thanks to all who attended. We are looking forward to May, the annual Aviation Ordnance QMB will be held here in Millington 23 - 27 May. We also have our 2nd annual camp out 27 - 30 May on the Tennessee River. Always remember IYAOYAS!

James Richardson
President Chapter S-87



**LET'S ALL THINK
SAFETY**



How many ordnance accident/incident reports have you read which list contributing factors as "carelessness, negligence, inattention to detail, haste, failure to follow established and approved procedures, inadequate training"? Think about it. I mean really think about it. I for one can think of several that happened very recently, and a few of those involved injuries to people.

For those that are still pursuing our livelihoods in the ordnance field, seldom does a day go by that you don't hear of at least one incident, no matter how minor, somewhere in

the world. I don't have accurate facts and figures in front of me, but I'd be willing to bet that at least 90% of those incidents are caused by one or more of the reasons listed above. No matter how you look at it, its always going to spell **HUMAN ERROR**.

As Aviation Ordnancemen, we have many responsibilities, one of which is to ensure all ordnance evolutions are conducted safely. Now that is a very general statement that can mean a whole lot of things. But as an ordnanceman, the first thing that should come to mind when your are thinking about ordnance safety is training. If you are a worker bee, are you sure you are familiar with ALL the safety precautions related to the task at hand? If not, ask your crew leader or supervisor. There are other ways too. Remember the old adage, "If you want a new idea, read an old book". Open those books that are just laying around in the shop. You might be surprised at what you may learn.

If you are a supervisor, are all of your people properly trained and qualified to do the job: If not, its your responsibility to ensure they are. You must also practice what you preach. Lead by example. If the junior people see yo do something not quite by the book, they may think its OK and make it an everyday occurrence.

Once your people have received all the necessary training, ensure it is put to good use. People do get tired and complacent. When they do, they get careless. Combine that with over confidence and an over familiarity with dangerous ordnance and you could a have a fatal situation. Don't let it happen. If a gentle reminder doesn't work, then try a swift kick in the butt, just don't let it happen. Remember, what we do is by its very nature, inherently dangerous. Its the job we've chosen, so let's do it and **DO IT SAFELY!**

Dave Moore
NAWC Det Lemoore

Thank You!

The Association has received good support from it's membership for the "**Robert L. Crow Scholarship Fund**". The scholarship fund was established to assist dependents of a member of The Association, dependents of deceased Aviation Ordnancemen of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, dependents of Associate members of The Association and immediate family of an active or associate member of The Association.

The Association of Aviation Ordnancemen wishes to express their appreciation for the generosity of the members who have contributed to the "**Robert L. Crow Scholarship Fund**" the past quarter:

John Arnao
Carmine Cascella
Henry Font
Hollis Forbus
Daniel Korzekwa
Jeffrey Maxfield
Jeffrey Owens
Floyd Strelow
Johnny Wheat
Steve Wrenn

Roy Bailets
Glenwood Crampton
William Foote
Donald Howard
Wayne Kramer
Jim Morgan
Richard Peipert
Tannis Watson
Lewis White
James G. Yaple

Chaplain's Corner

Greetings. Peace and Love to all. A continual "THANKS" to the "BIG GUY" (or whatever you personally call your, to borrow term from AA, "HIGHER POWER").

By the time this newsletter hits the mailbox the convention will be almost upon us. Hope to see you there!! Even if you don't make it, remember to keep up the recruiting effort. We have a lot of shipmates out there that need a little encouragement to join-up with the rest of us and really make this a "mo betta" organization. I realize it is hard to imagine that it can get better than this, but here is always room for improvement.

I am finally at the end of my list of "holy" patrons that we can identify with as weaponeers, sailors, or aviators. And this guy isn't even a "Saint", except in the sense that we all are, plus a little edge. Still worthy of great honor, and as we are all aware it doesn't hurt to know a few friends in "high" places.

Blessed Peter Gonzalez, (1190-1246) was born of a noble Castilian family. "Blessed" is like being Board Eligible but not being selected. His uncle was the bishop of Astorga at the time, who educated him and gave him an appointment as a canon (staff member) of the cathedral. He shortly resigned this position and joined the Benedictines (the order of monks that became famous for some great brandy among other things). He became famous for his preaching abilities, and was appointed as chaplain to the King, Ferdinand III. He was apparently a person of integrity. He put great effort into reforming the court, against much opposition, and also preached against the Moors but then persuaded the victors (Christians) to be merciful to the defeated enemy (Moors). Remember this was during the time of the Inquisition and the moral fiber of the courts and religious hierarchy left a lot to be desired. Anyway, he finally left the court to preach (his specialty) in Cilicia and along the coast. He was particularly concerned with the welfare of sailors (Taa Daaaa!!) and is considered the patron of Spanish and Portuguese sailors along with St. Elmo (he was covered a few issues back). He died at Tuy, Spain. His feast, or day of special honor is April 14. So if you happen to be of this ethnic extraction, and even if you aren't, you have the option of recognizing someone else up the chain who can help you out with your special concerns.

In closing, how about taking a moment of internal silence to remember those shipmates, spouses, associates, members of the Auxiliary, and others close to us, who have received their final orders to the headquarters of the Supreme Commander.

Keep up the recruiting effort. Peace and Love to All.

Ron Bushta
Chaplain



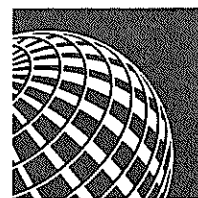
ST. LOUIS OR BUST!

'94 Convention

16-19 June 1994

Continental

One Airline Can Make A Difference.SM



Continental is offering a 5% Discount off the lowest available fare. Seniors rate a 10% Discount.

Holiday Inn
WESTPORT

RATES:

Standard Room (2 People) - \$ 65

Executive Floor (2 People) - \$ 97

3rd/4th Person Extra • Plus Tax

Please Call:

JIM THOMAS

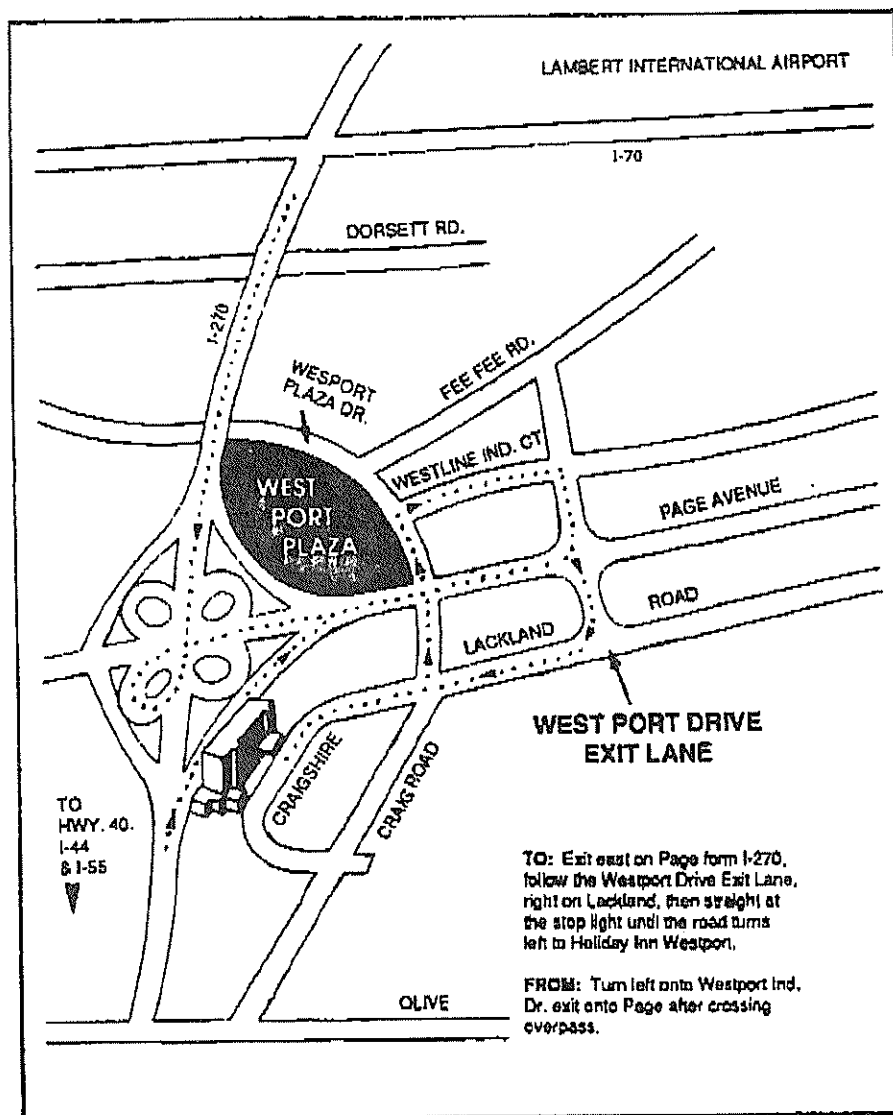
Point Loma World Travel, Inc.

(800) 783-8646 or (619) 225-9468

Easy Come, Easy Go

Simple directions to
Holiday Inn
WESTPORT

I-270 and Page Avenue



Courtesy limousine service to and from Westport Plaza and the airport
12 Minutes from Lambert International Airport
Conveniently located at the center of West County business and entertainment



Scholarship News



Almost time for our convention. I have the revision to the scholarship application completed and I've faxed copies to our President, Secretary/Treasurer, Whidbey Island, and Tidewater. I will mail or Fax copies to anyone who asks. Please call or write me (Box 144, NAS Cecil Field FL 32215 (904) 778-6041 or DSN 860-6041).

I am looking forward to being covered in applications. I would like nothing better than to have 50 plus to sort through this year. Let's get'em done. Please, call or write for the new application dated 1 JAN 94.

I would like to thank all the chapter and members for their donations to the **"Robert L. Crow Scholarship Fund"**. Your donations help make it all possible, and continue to keep us growing. It is through your generosity we have seen scholarships increase to three per year and the size of the award climb to \$850.00 per scholarship. Keep up the good work. The more you give the more you receive. Thanks.

Floyd English
Scholarship Committee Chairman



TAPS



AOC Mazary E. Brewer

AO1 Joseph J. Brink

*AOC William L. Chandler

AOC Jack Degman

AOCS Leo G. Dyda

AOC Rober E. Frase

AOC Everet D. Galligher Jr.

AOC Frank C. Grade

AOC Roy L. Langlinais

AOC Carl E. Luallen

AO1 Roy A. Newkirk

AOC Harold G. Ortiz

AOC Luther F. Pennington

AOC Joseph M. Strichek

*AOCS C. E. Swartzendruber

AO2 J.O. West

AOC John M. Wilkie

* Member in good standing



Pictured from L to R: Rear Admiral Robert Sutton (Commander, Naval Ordnance Center), CDR Gary Laun (President Association of Aviation Ordnancemen), and Mr. Ed Kratovil (Director of Explosive Safety). CDR Laun presented an Association Plaque to RADM Sutton for the Naval Ordnance Center and bestowed an Honorary Membership in The Association upon Mr. Kratovil in recognition of his efforts in persuing Explosive Safety.

A SAILOR' PRAYER

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
Grant no other sailor take,
My shoes and socks before I wake.
Lord, guard me in my slumber,
And keep my hammock on it's number.
May no clues nor lashing break,
And let me down before I wake.
Keep me safely in thy sight,
And grant no fire drills tonight.
And in the morning let me wake,
Breathing scents of sirloin steaks.
God protect me in my dreams,
And make this better than it seems.

Grant that time may swiftly fly,
When myself shall rest on high.
In a snowy feather bed,
There I long to rest my head.
Far away from all these scenes,
And the smell of half done beans.
Take me back into the land,
Where they don't scrub down with sand.
Where no demon typhoons blow
Where the women wash the clothes
God thou knowest all my woes
Feed me in my dying throws.
Take me back I'll promise then
Never to leave home again.

Four Years later

Our father who art in Washington
Please dear father let me stay
Do not drive me now away
Wipe away my scalding tears
And let me stay for thirty years.
Please forgive me all my past
And things that happened before the mast
Do not my request refuse
And let me stay another cruise.

Author Unknown



CASU-38 RE-UNION

Anyone interested call or write:

Jerry Yokem
1201 - E. 40th Street
Silver City, NM 88061
(505) 388-2970

CASU 13-42 and ACORN 28 RE-UNION

September 16 -18, 1994. Viscount Suite Hotel, Tuscon, AZ. Anyone interested contact:

William F. Lathan
PO Box 51
Le Roy, NY 14482-0051

NEW LIFE MEMBERS:

John Klemin
Luther Lance
William Meyer
David Moore
Pete "Wahoo" Preston



ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN
BILLY EARL - SECRETARY/TREASURER
145 - NORTH KOOTENIA CREEK
STEVENSVILLE, MT 59870

FORWARDING & RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
TEMECULA, CA 92589
PERMIT NO. 192

