Spring 2004

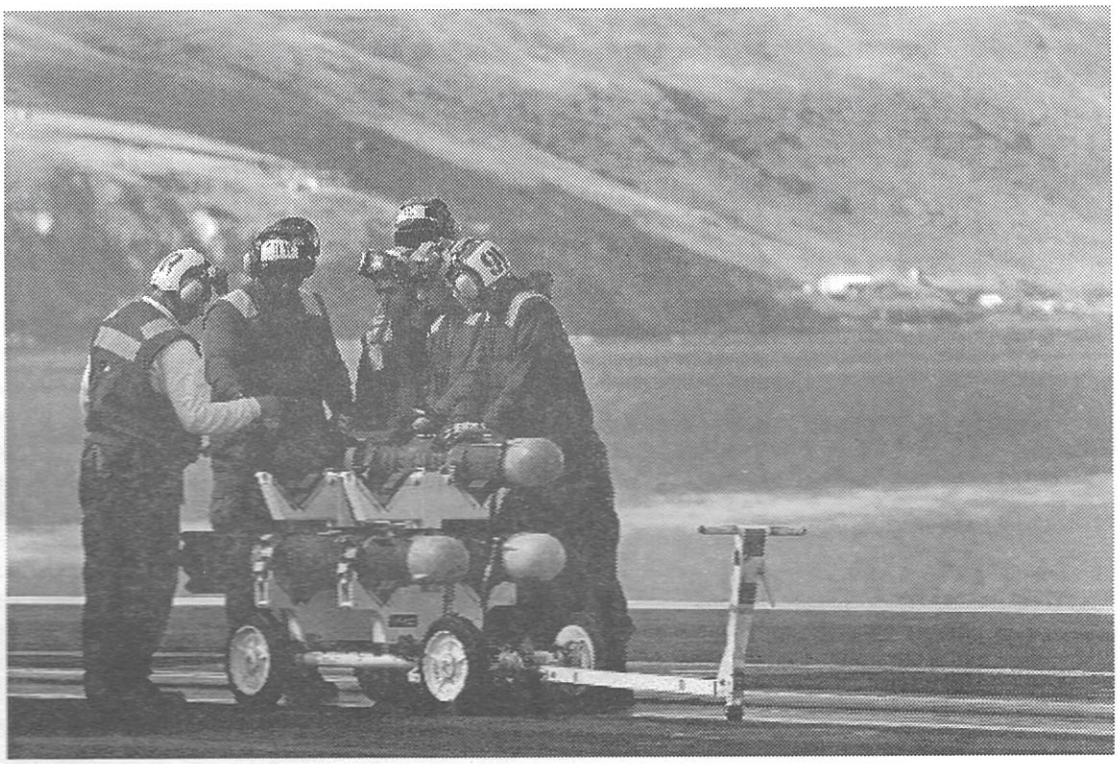
THE ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN

The Red Shirt

Http://welcome.to/aao

Newsletter #92

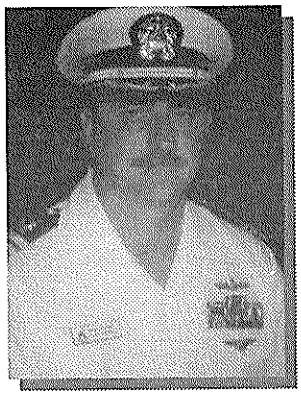
CONVENTION TIME IS NEAR



Consult Your Checklist And Make Plans Now

July 8-11 2004
Reno, Nevada

Peace Through Power - We Are The "ARMS" Of The Fleet



The President's Message

Hello Fellow Ordnancemen

This edition of the REDSHIRT will contain the information you all will need to seriously start your planning for the annual Convention/Symposium in Reno NV. Just so you know and might have seen in our last edition of the REDSHIRT key members of your Association did meet the weekend of 16-19 January in Reno to finalize Convention events. We had folks travel from as far away as Pennsylvania, San Diego, Lemoore, Apple Valley CA, and of course Fallon. I want to thank each of you that came to Reno for your continued dedication to the greater cause of our Association. These fine folks finalized events for Friday nights Social, and of course Saturdays awards dinner. (Rumor has it, the Friday night Social this year will be an event you do not want to miss). I need to also pass on that the staff of the Silver Legacy Resort Casino is hard at work to meet our desires, and to make our event a memorable and successful one.

The 2004 Convention promises to be yet another exciting event. We hope to have many Marines and Sailors who participated in recent combat during Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom in attendance so they can relate their stories of success. These outstanding warriors will have a chance to sit beside the many warriors of years past and compare notes, should be an interesting exchange.

I don't want take any thunder from Chapter 21, but they have been working real hard as the host for the upcoming convention. They have been conducting various fundraisers to raise monies to make your arrival in Reno a smooth one, and once at the Silver Legacy they will be manning and supporting the National Staff in your registration. Keep up the good work Men and women of Chapter 21.

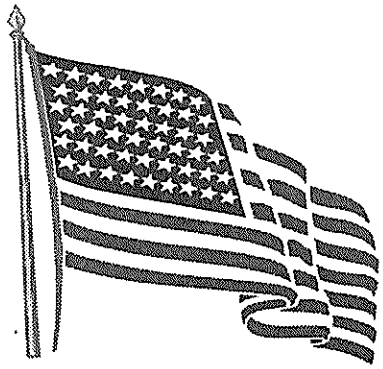
Now here at Ordnance town USA we have had a very busy fall and winter, we have had deployments from CVW-7, CVW-17, CVW-14 and in February we have CVW-3 coming in . Ever wonder if it's busy at Fallon, well the men and women of the Fallon weapons department pumped over 30 Millions pounds of ordnance to the CALA this past year without incident.

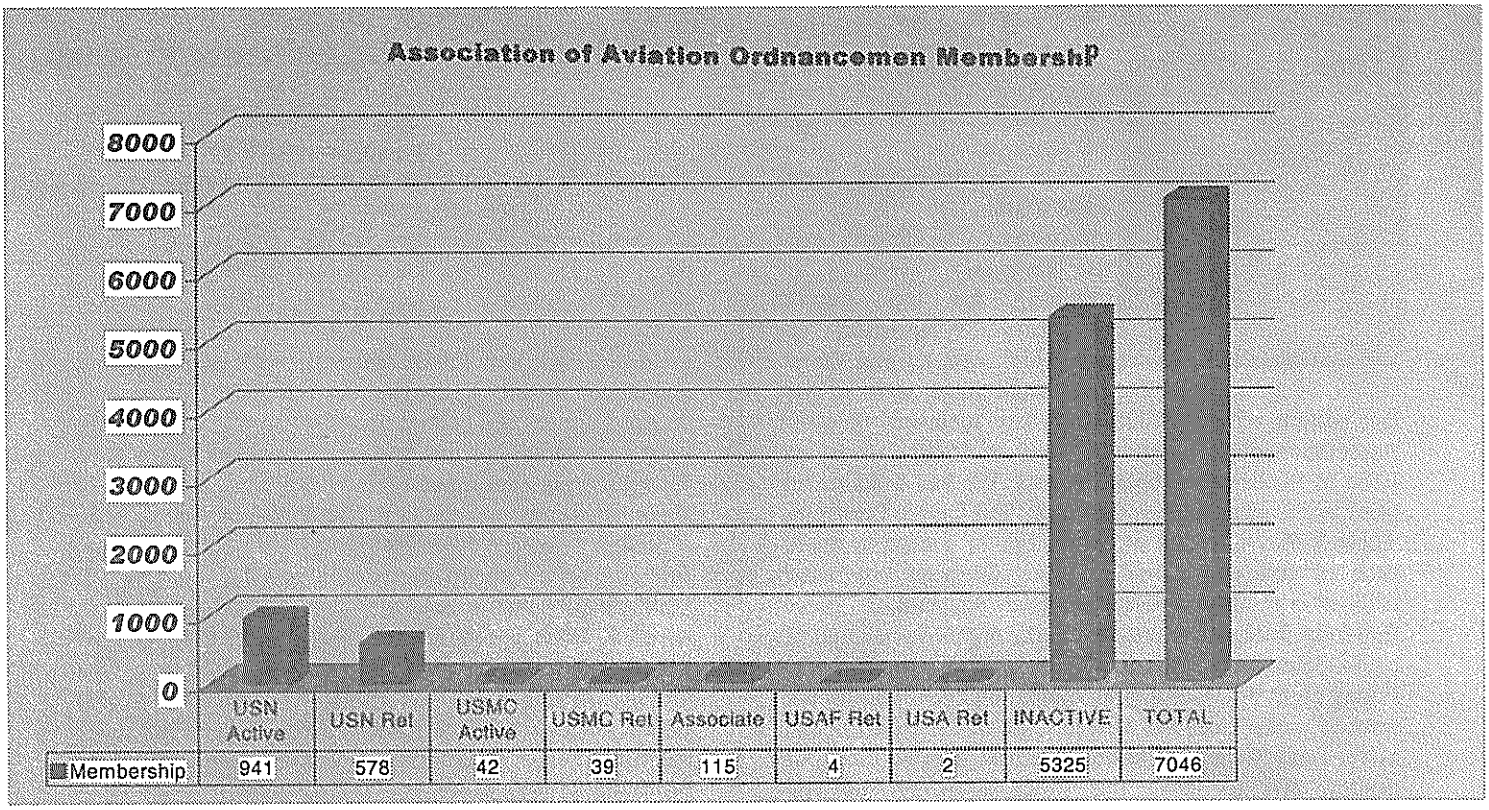
Something that you will see new in this addition is a graph showing membership statistics. I plan on keeping this information in all future issues so you the membership can see where we stand on this part of the Association. I hope that you all will use it as a tool to start help driving our numbers in an upward trend. As you will see we all need to take a turn on this, so if you would lend a hand and recruit us more members. You also should see in your mailbox real soon a copy of the pre-order form for the tabletop History of the Aviation Ordnance rating. Please give it your strongest consideration for purchasing your self a copy; another good idea is it would make a great birthday, retirement, and Christmas gift, so maybe hint it to your spouse. You do not want to miss getting yourself a copy. We will also need your inputs for this book so follow the instructions for submitting your input. Pictures will also be needed, so if you have some old and new photo's we will need them.

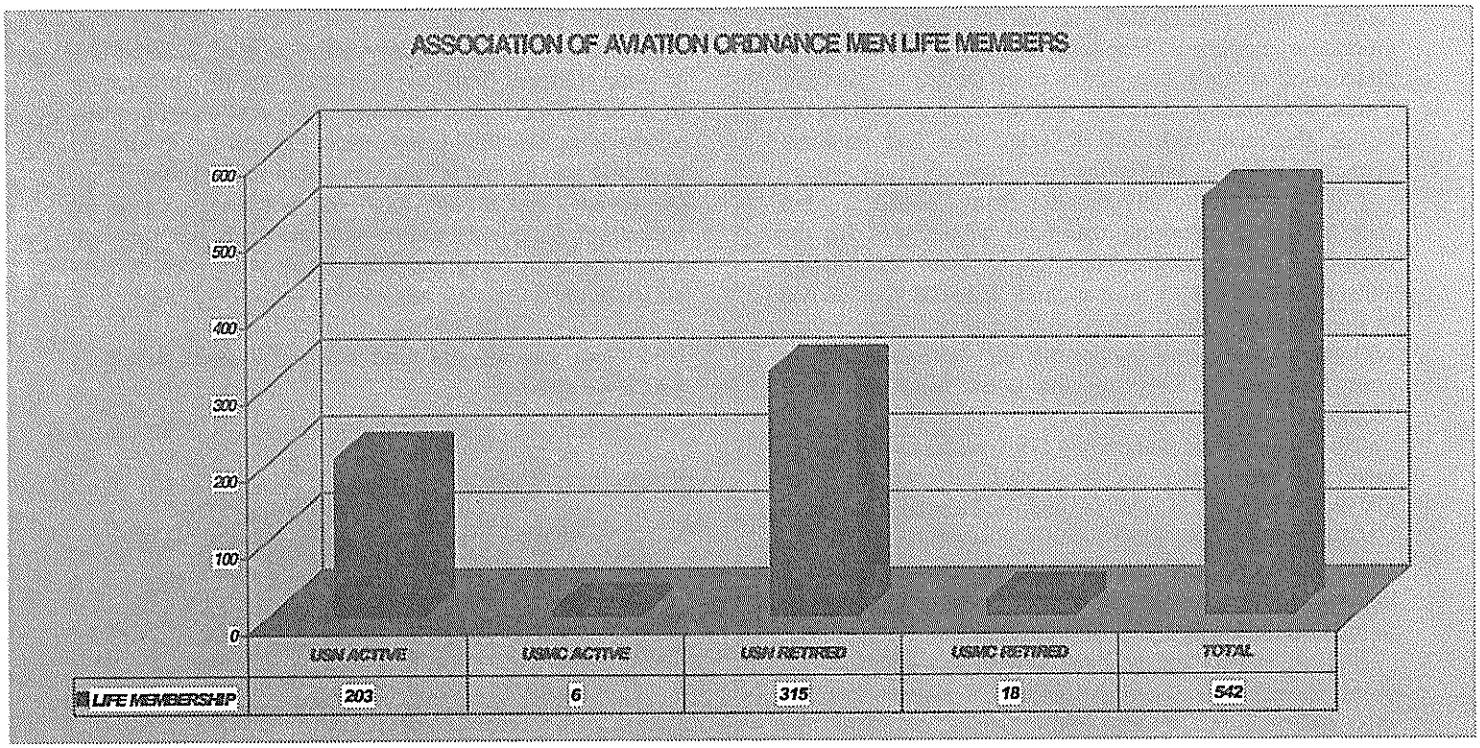
Before I close, I have few things for you to consider, first are you a strong participant in your local chapter? Is your Chapter taking care of the local Ordnancemen in need? Is there a support committee within the Chapter keeping all members informed of issues and events that are up coming? Are you discussing ordnance related issues, such as current CODR/EMR's that have been submitted? Are you holding conversation related to ordnance safety? Have you talked about the By-Laws under which we run our Association? If you're doing the above, then most likely your running a very strong Chapter, and I congratulate you for doing so. If your not doing the above I ask that you take a turn on your organization. If you need any help feel free to email any of your National Staff for assistance we are all standing by to help. Once again start looking at making your plans on attending the 2004 Convention. Pat and I look forward to seeing you all and telling you about living in the desert of Nevada, and no we have not bought any cows or horses yet. Take care and be safe out there and keep our shipmates both Navy and Marines in your prayers, they all are doing a fantastic mission for our great Nation.

God bless you all and God Bless this great nation in which we all love.

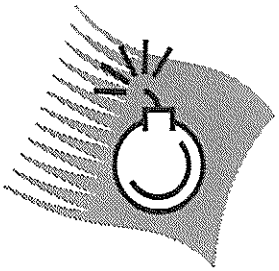
Respectfully, Dave




Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Membership
8000
7000
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
USN Active
USN Ret
USMC Active
USMC Ret
Associate
USAF Ret
USA Ret
INACTIVE
TOTAL
Membership
941
578
42
39
115
4
2
5325
7046


ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCE MEN LIFE MEMBERS
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
USN ACTIVE
USMC ACTIVE
USN RETIRED
USMC RETIRED
TOTAL
LIFE MEMBERSHIP
203
6
315
18
542

Secretary's Article

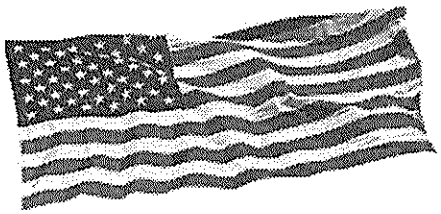


Hello All,

I hope the New Year has found each of you with a newfound sense of god and country. We AO's are all over the world fighting against terrorists I would like to remind all of you to take a couple seconds a day to send someone a quick IYAOYAS note that will brighten them up. A quick reminder all report's are do to me after your monthly meeting's…

Dennis Costa
722 E Ave
Coronado Ca 92118
619-435-3757 Home
619-545-8492 Work
aocm@aol.com
costa.dennis@ammopac.nasni.navy.mil

. . Support your local chapter . . . Attend meetings regularly . . .



ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

www.welcome.to/aao

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

FIRST TIME MEMBERS $15.00 PER YEAR OR $25.00 FOR TWO YEARS

PREVIOUS MEMBERS AND ANNUAL RENEWALS $15.00 PER YEAR

NAME:_____ SPOUSE:_____
LAST FIRST MI

ADDRESS:_____

CITY:_____ STATE:_____ ZIP:_____-_____

PHONE: home (____)_____-_____ work (____)_____-_____

RATE/RANK:_____ BRANCH OF SERVICE _____ Active ( ) Retired ( )

DATES SERVED: _____ TO _____ SSN:___-___-_____

Type of membership: Regular ( ) Associate ( )

SPONSOR:_____

I ELECT TO RECEIVE MY NEWSLETTER BY DOWNLOADING IT FROM THE WEBSITE ONLY ( )

Under the freedom of information act: I do / do not authorize release of my name, address and telephone number to other members or prospective members of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen.

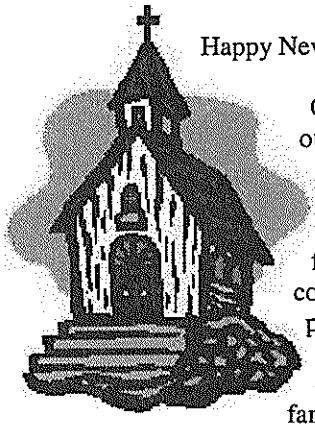
SIGNATURE:_____ DATE:_____

MAIL TO: AOCM J.J. La Maitre, USN Ret.
PO BOX 711167
Santee, CA 92072-0273

November 2003

GIVE THIS FORM TO A FELLOW ORDNANCEMAN

CHAPLAINS CORNER



Happy New Year,

Great to be back in contact with all our Naval and Marine Corps colleagues. As we review the events of the past year and possibly a little further. We have time to reflect on events, experiences and accomplishments. We are now in the planning phase for the beginning of the Rest of our lives, careers and endeavors....both as individuals, families and members of the greatest military community possible. Do so wisely and with expectancy that you are in for quite a future, In all your planning and resolutions always have a good backup because the first may not work.

On the 11th of January, I forwarded to a number of our AAO colleagues an email titled Some gave all. It was a message that contained quite a moving and emotional message : Remember the Blood of Heroes. If you have not viewed this attachment; email me at HLCabins@Centurytel.net and I will forward it to you.....well worthwhile.

Sometimes we become involved in discussions on Religious matters, philosophy and so on. Eventually in some of these discussions someone will ask " well which one is right or the best one" I have a short story to share...just a paragraph or so for you to reflect on. Story goes as follows and the end is self explanatory.:

Several cotton farmers were whiling away a winter afternoon around The potbellied stove. They soon became entangled in a heated discussion on the merits of their respective religions. The eldest of the farmers had been sitting quietly, just listening, when the group turned to him And demanded, "who's right, old Jim? Which one of these religions is the right one?"

"Well," said Jim thoughtfully, "you know there are three ways to get from here to the cotton gin. You can go right over the big hill. That's shorter, but it's a powerful climb. You can go around the East side of the hill. That's not too far, but the road is rougher'n tarnation. Or you can go around the West side of the hill, which is the longest way, but it's the easiest."

"But, you know," he said, looking them all squarely in the eye, "when You get to the gin, the gin man don't ask how you come. He just asks, 'Man, how good is your cotton?'"

And that's how it is. God intended us to be ever mindful of our walk in faith. There are many ways of " getting there" .....not one is an easy journey on this Earth. We must keep the Faith, do what is right, reasonable and Love one another in keeping with Gods Will and Instructions..... and follow the footsteps of Christ.

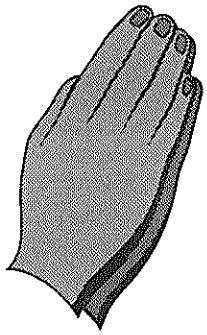
As Second Timothy Chapter 4, vs 7 - 8 states " we must Fight the good Fight, Keep the Faith, Run the Race, and receive the Crown.

Your comments and questions or suggestions please.. I sincerely mean this request.

Blessings and Peace,

Christian J. Eck Jr.

AAO Chaplain



TAPS

AO1 Ward W. Bartusch
AO1 John J. Stahl
AO1 Albert B. Gomez
AOC Duane L. Runnels.

From The Vice-President

Greetings to all;

Well we are busy here in Fallon getting ready for the July 8-11 2004 Convention in Reno at the Silver Legacy Resort and Casino. Chapter 21's Convention Chairman AO1 Neely and his committee are busy make plans for several things to do while you are at this year's convention. We have just returned from Reno planning the Friday and Saturday evening events and menus. It may seem like it is too early to be talking about this year's convention but it is only few months away so make your plans to be there and get your advance registration in now. When you are done reading this Newsletter you need to put your thinking cap on and if you have any nomination for **Vice President (Joe Manley), Secretary (Dennis Costa), or the two Board of Directors (Chuck Onken & Gary Laun)** you need to get them to me before **5 MARCH 2004**. I need the nomination in written form so that they can be included in the March Newsletter. If you would like you can contact me to get a **SAMPLE** Format of a nomination.

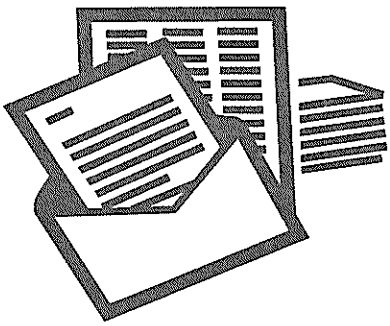
Being I'm on the subject of the convention I would like to talk about the absentee ballot. I would like to see more use of the ballot so that the folks who cannot make the convention have a vote on what happens in the association. If you do decide to use the ballot **you must follow the instruction for filling out and mailing the ballot.** We were unable to use 14 of the ballots last year due to improperly filled out or improper mailing. Look for this year's ballot in the next Newsletter.

I cannot miss an opportunity to talk about the Membership. Membership with paid-up dues has declined while our lifetime membership has grown. Also on the rise is the number of members who are in the 1-year grace period. We as members need to talk with these individuals and get them back into our membership. **We also need to use the first time enlistment free membership when one of our young sailors reenlists and take advantage of the two years for $25.00 option.** If you see a shipmate that seems interested in the Association, get him/her to the local meeting and get him/her involved. Thanks to all those members that are out there working to bring in our new members.

The Association of Aviation Ordnancemen History Book is moving along well. I would like to thank all the folks who have submitted a History Book form so that we could make a determination on whether to go forward with the project. The Board of Directors has approved to go forward with the project, so keep your eyes on your mailbox for the brochure from Turner Publishing Company.

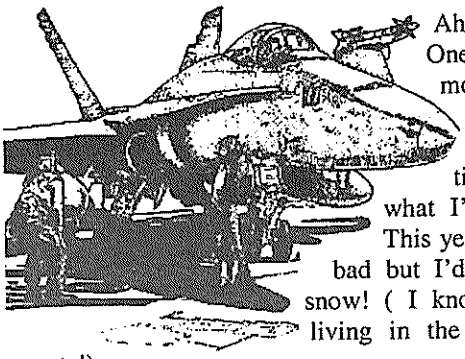
IYAOYAS
PRESS ON

Joe Manley



Recognize The Best Of The Best . . . Submit Your John W. Finn AO of the Year Packages

Chapter 1 Lemoore, CA



Ahoy from Chapter One in foggy Lemoore, CA. If you've ever been here in the winter time you know what I'm talking about. This year hasn't been too bad but I'd still rather have snow! (I know, those of you living in the north think I'm nuts!)

For the first time in a long while we have everyone home at the same time. I'm sure all the squadrons are overjoyed to have been home during the holidays. They most assuredly deserve the rest after the outstanding job they did in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

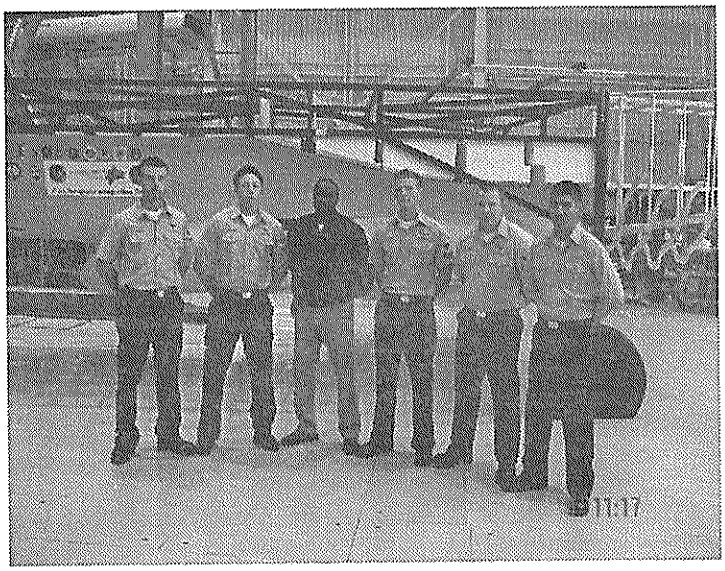
We all enjoyed our annual Christmas Party on the 6th of December. Lots of good food, friendship and fun. This year's white elephant gift exchange encompassed a wide variety of items. Anything from a Tiger Woods Signature putter (yeah, right) to Twister and baby oil (you figure it out). Another one for the book of good times.

On the professional side, some of our local ordies were chosen to take part in a very worthwhile tasking. Ordies from VFA-22, VFA-146 and VFA-147 traveled to El Segundo, CA to load mock weapons into a mock-up of the Joint Strike Fighter weapons bay. The Strike Fighter Wing (namely me) was asked by AIRPAC to assemble a load team and test the procedures and capabilities of the JSF. It was an outstanding opportunity for our young ordnancemen to see the future of Naval Aviation as well as showing the pros and cons of the design. A lot of good information and helpful hints were gained by both the Navy and the Northrup Grumman Company. I'm sure we'll be asked back in the future to try out new ideas they're sure to come up with so I'll keep you posted.

One other note, The NAS Lemoore Air Show is going to be held 20-21 March this year. Planning is still in the early stages but it's sure to be a huge event. Many military aircraft from all the services will be on display and a variety of military and civilian airborne flights, including the Blue Angels, are sure to wow the local community. If you're in the area, make it a point to come and enjoy the show. The Chapter is planning on setting up a table so while you're here you can stop by for any and all of your AAO memorabilia needs.

Well, I guess that's all for this edition. If you're in the area on the third Wednesday of the month, make sure to stop by the Fleet Reserve at 1900 for our monthly meeting.

AOCS(AW) Tim Zimmer
President, Chapter One
IYAOYAS



Standing in front of the JSF Mock-Up Aircraft Weapons Bay at the Northrop Grumman facility in El Segundo, CA. JSF Load Team members from left to right :
AO3 Porter (VFA-147), AO2 Delgado (VFA-22), AOC Reed (CSFWP), AO2 Lester (VFA-22), AO1 Yocum (VFA-146), and AOAN Prieto (VFA-146).

Red Shirt Articles

are due

15 OCT 04
15 JAN 05
15 MAR 04
30 JUL 04

Please submit via e-mail when possible

Treasurer's Report

Greetings,

Our condolences go out to all the fire victims here in Southern California, especially one from our Ordie Family – Ed Clement. Ed has been a Tech Rep for over 30 years at (then NAS) MCAS Miramar and lost his home to the fire. Ed if you need any assistance from the 'family' it is yours just for the asking. You have provided outstanding service and guidance to several generations of Ordies. On a positive note, congratulations on your retirement.

The pre-convention meeting held in Reno went off without a hitch. The rooms are super, food is even better, and service was outstanding. The prices were a bit more than Laughlin, but still reasonable. For those of you flying in and back out, ensure you get to the airport a minimum of 2 hours prior to your flight. We saw several folks missing flights, 'We were in line for over an hour getting through security' was the reason given.

Address changes continue to be one of the great challenges. You can make them via the web site, via snail mail P.O. Box 711167; Santee, CA 92072-1167 or you can e-mail them to me at aaotreas@cox.net. Until next time IYAOYAS.
JJ LaMaitre

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

AO2 Eli F. Lobdell	AOCS Frank L. Fogg USN Ret.
AOCS Jack S. Knapp	Russell N. Jones
GYSGT Eddie P. Parker USMC Ret.	William D. Jacobs
AO1(AW) Carlos R. Chairez	Allan E. Smith

NEW MEMBERS

AO1 (AW) Jeffery W. Schreiber	FCCS Charles F. Lucas USN Ret.
AO1 (AW/SW) Michael R. Steckley	AOAN Russell A. Olivero
AO3 Sean P. Shannon	Russell N. Jones
AO1 (AW/SW) Zoelynn M. Bailey	AO2 Bart L. Crowder
FCC Chris W. Johnson	MSGT Michael L. McClaskey
Theresa A. Yost	AOC Kurtis W. Scott
AO1 Bryan R. Randolph	AO1 Michael J. Trimmer
AO1 Carey L. Snider	AO2 Arthur D. Gray
AO2 William S. Keaton	AO2 Michael S. Thigpen
AO2 Robert D. Newton	AO3 Daniel E. Allmond
TM3 Tara Y. Brown	AO3 Mauriceo E. Jones
AO3 Michael A. Botticello	AO3 Anthony S. Omo
AO3 Jeffery C. Richards	AOAN Seth J. Albright
AO3 Timothy L. Robertson	AOAN Ronald C. Baxter
AOAN Kevin R. Cole	AOAN Jason T. Hall
AOAN Tim J. Faulkner	AOAN James E. Huff
AOAN Joshua J. Taher	AOAA Ryan L. Call
TMSN Tanisha N. Thomas	AOAA Jon E. Heinzmann
AOAA Tyler R. Jones	AO1 Aymee J. Marl
Eugene P. McNamara	Louis G. Vargo
AO3 Anthony Falu	AO2 William A. Ortiz
AO1 Theresa I. McNeill	AO1 Boris R. Harris
AO1 Todd E. Covington	AO1 Chris M. Lindsey
AOCS Stanley E. Holmes USN Ret.	Peter Schwab
AO1 Edward A. Marta	Lonnie W. Sizemore
AO3 Roy A. Owens	AO3 James K. Reyna

SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTORS

ASCS William B. Jones Jr. USN Ret.	AOC (AW/SW) Bryan Downs
John & Katie Drake	AOC Billy & Timi Devine
Frank & Jennie Fogg	AOCM Robert & Nancy Tyson USN Ret.
AOCM Brian E. Albrecht USN Ret.	MSGT Dennis M. Colbert USMC Ret.
Lt Santiago & Denise Ortiz	CWO4 Laird & Janice Brinley USN Ret.
CWO4 Joseph & Julieta Zonkel USN Ret.	LT George & Lilli Werner IV USNR Ret.
Harvey & Myrna Dunevant	AOCS Gregory & Dawn Sawyer
AOCS John & Linda Cataldi Jr.	AOC Rodney & Kelly Ledger
LT 'Buck' & Nadine Hafer USN Ret.	Bob Anderson
Kordeen & Camy Kor	AOC A.N. & Connie Knoblach USN Ret.
Brett & Nancy Schroeder	AOC Brenda & James Cotter
CAPT Tommy C. Wimberly USN Ret.	

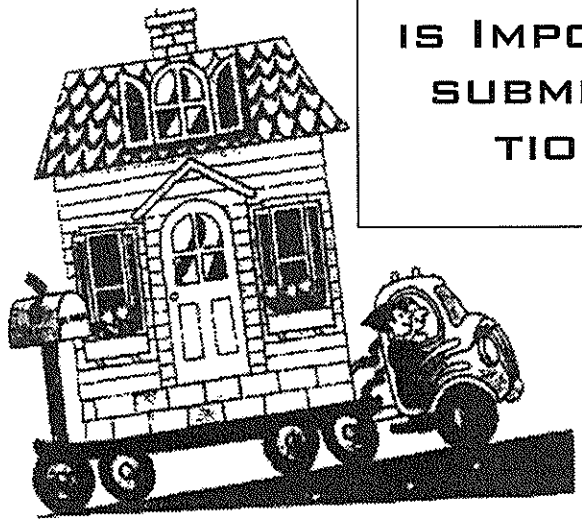
LOCATOR

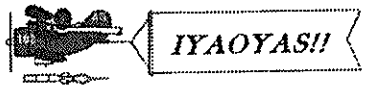
Can you help?.....Know where any of these members can be located? If so please contact me at the E-Mail address on the preceding page, snail mail or give me a call.

AOAA Gregory A. Eslinger	AOCS (AW/NAC) Phillip E. Zavodny
AOCM Christopher K. Engles	AO3 Richard J. Cardwell
AO1 James W. Richey USN Ret.	AO2 Zebbie Perkins
AO1 (AW) Larry T. Bass	AO1 Robert Sepulveda
AO2(AW) Zsolt A. Vecsernyes	AO2 Wayne Bigelow
AN Russell J. Brainard	AO1 Lupe A. Miranda
CWO3 Marcus Quattlebaum	AO3 William F. Sumner

MOVING ?

YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS IS IMPORTANT . . . PLEASE SUBMIT ONE TO THE NATIONAL TREASURER





Chapter 21 Fallon, NV

Greetings from all of us, the High Planes Desert Ordies. We are happy to announce that the Holidays passed without any incidents. Everyone is back at work, and loving it! We would like to thank CAG 17 & 14 for their support in December and January. It was a pleasure working with you!

We would like to announce the departure of AOCS Michael Hurley, who left for CAG 17 Virginia Beach, VA. See you soon on det. in Fallon. Also, AOC Kevin Williams has left us and can now be found with VQ-2 in Rota, Spain. Adios Chief! Thank you both for your knowledge. Fair winds and following seas.

Our Christmas party was a raging success. All who took part in the jollification had all the food and fun they could have expected from the celebration. Thanks for all your hard work everyone!

At present, Chapter 21 is busy working on getting ready for the fast approaching National AAO Convention. Plans are being set in motion, and this year's convention is shaping up to be the best yet! It is scheduled for July 8-11, 2004 in Reno at the Silver Legacy. We cannot overemphasize the benefits of purchasing your tickets ahead of time. Not only does it help us in the planning of the event, but it also saves you money!

On a more adverse note, our chapter president, AO1 Steve Gahr was recently diagnosed with cancer before the holidays. He is currently undergoing treatment and on the road to recovery. Please send any warm wishes to 521B Carrier Ct., Fallon, NV 89406. Get well, and hurry back to us Steve! You are missed!

.IYAOYAS

AO1(AW) Christopher Miller
Chapter 21, Vice President
Fallon, Nevada
Email: christopher.miller@navy.mil

POSTERITY: "YOU WILL NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH IT HAS COST MY GENERATION TO PRESERVE YOUR FREEDOM. I HOPE YOU MAKE GOOD USE OF IT."

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

Pensacola Chapter

Greetings from the Pensacola Chapter, Cradle of Naval Aviation

First I would like to welcome our new Ordie instructors. Newly assigned to the AOA1 School are: AOC Timothy Truster, AO1 Christopher Wasko, AO1 Todd Covington, AO1 Sammie Flemming, AO1 Boris Harris, SSGT Vela, SSGT Cook, SGT Hernandez and SGT Hill.

Since our last letter we have completed 2 Adopt A Highway clean ups. We are continuing to transfer memorabilia to the Naval Aviation Museum We participated in the Disabled Americans Torch Relay here in Pensacola. The AOA1 School is currently updating their trainers to give the students a more realistic aspect of the fleet. Many things are changing in the world of Instruction. "A" School as most of us know it is soon to be a thing of the past. As always, we are committed to sending the best product to the fleet.

At the Pensacola Chapter local meeting held Tuesday the 2nd of December we voted on a new treasurer. The winner was AO1 Nikki Williams. The outgoing Treasurer (AOC Tawakoni Butler) is moving on to bigger and better things.

Our chapter received a Meritorious and Distinguished Service award from the VFW post 706 for furthering the aims and ideals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. We are proud of are commitment to the local community and the VFW.

In closing, we would like to say fair winds and following seas to AOC(AW) Shawn Todd, who will retire January 30th at the Naval Aviation Museum and AO1 Mary Watson, who will retire on the 31st of May. They have been valued instructors here for the past three years and influenced many young sailors. Also leaving us to further their careers are: AOCS Jeffery Grosso, AOC Scott Merritt, AOC Raymond McGoldrick and AO1 Johhny DeLarosa.

IYAOYAS and SEMPER FI
AO1(AW) Patrick Kilgore
Pensacola Chapter Vice President

New benefits law won't track eligible remarried spouses

The Veterans Benefits Act of 2003, signed into law by President Bush on Dec. 15, contains expanded survivor benefits that may end up going to only 15 percent of those who are eligible.The new law allows surviving spouses who remarry after age 57 to keep receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation if they were getting the monthly payments before remarriage. Survivors also could use home-loan and education benefits under the new law. Those who remarry before age 57 would continue to lose their veterans' survivor benefits.

According to estimates prepared by the Congressional Budget Office, between 300 and 350 survivors a year — mostly widows — will be able to keep benefits if they remarry. Also, about 10,800 survivors who lost benefits under the previous policy are eligible for benefits, if they apply within one year. But the Veterans Affairs Department has no way to contact everyone who is eligible. Budget analysts expect only 15 percent will apply within the one-year window. Survivors who have remarried and are no longer receiving veterans' benefits may never hear about the change in law, a House Democratic staff member said. "The fact that so many are eligible but will not get the word is a concern," the staffer said. "We don't really have any way of reaching them." The new law also allows a surviving spouse of a veteran to be buried in a VA cemetery beside the veteran even if the spouse remarries. This provision is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2000. The new remarriage policy is "long overdue," said Rep. Henry Brown Jr., R-S.C. "After years of trying to find the offsets, we are finally able to bring equity to those surviving spouses who lose their Dependency and Indemnity Compensation upon remarrying later in life." The new provision to allow surviving spouses who remarry after age 57 to retain monthly survivor payments, as well as home-loan and education benefits, is a compromise. The House wanted to provide benefits to surviving spouses who remarry at age 55 and older. "A military spouse already faces a life of sacrifice and hardship and should not be stripped of earned benefits because of a new-found love and companionship," said Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite, R-Fla. "We should not, as a government, be discouraging people to get married.

Turner Publishing Company
Publishers of America's History
Buy books online or call toll-free
1-800-788-3350

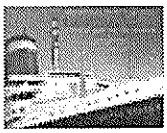
SEARCH TURNER:
GO >>

Browse Books by Category

Military
Army
Navy
Air Force
Marines
Other
Calendars

Public Service
Law Enforcement
Fire Fighters
Local Histories
Arkansas
Illinois
Indiana
Kansas
Kentucky
Michigan
Mississippi
Missouri
Nebraska
Ohio
Tennessee
Texas
Wisconsin

Specialty Books
Corporate Histories
Collectibles
Organization Histories
Other



SS United States
ISBN 1-56311-824-6
Hard Bound with dust jacket
176 pages, 11" x 8 1/2"

The S.S. United States Fiftieth Anniversary Commemorative Book is the first comprehensive work on the vessel in decades. This volume includes many rarely seen photographs from the liner's golden years to her forlorn and lonely twilight years. With the significant contribution of Frank Braynard, the nation's leading maritime historian, and Robert Hudson Westover, S.S. United States Foundation Chairman and coauthor, this book stands as a fitting tribute and celebration of the 50th Anniversary of her maiden voyage.

My Amish Heritage
ISBN: 1-56311-869-6
Hard Bound with dust jacket
168 pages 10" X 10"

Follow the journey of one woman and her departure from Amish life through rare photographs all in full color. See the story, captured by a friend of the family who accompanied Ruth on her journey and became her husband.

This pictorial history allows the reader a glimpse into the private world of Ruth Irene Miller born into an Old Order Amish family just north of Kalona, Iowa, the largest Amish community west of the Mississippi River. My Amish Heritage provides a pictorial accompaniment to her bestselling book, Crossing Over: One Woman's Escape from Amish Life, offering an inside look into the life of the Amish and Ruthâ€™s transition to life among "the English".

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

Interview with Gary Urbanowicz, author of Badges of the Bravest

Join the Collector's Club
for special access to limited-edition, leather-bound books.
Click Here

Let us Create a Book for you!

information for Booksellers and Libraries

Customer Service: (800) 788-3350 | service@turnerpublishing.com
© 2003 Turner Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

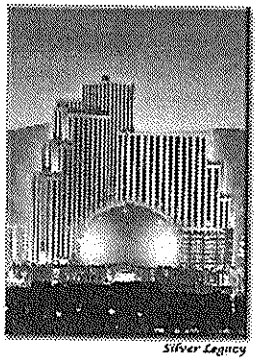
THE RETURN TO RENO!

AAO CONVENTION

JULY 8-11, 2004

SILVER LEGACY RESORT CASINO

Reno, Nevada



800/687-8733

(RESERVATIONS GROUP CODE: ***ORDNANCE)***

SUNDAY - THURSDAY
STANDARD ROOM - $59
SPA SUITE - $120

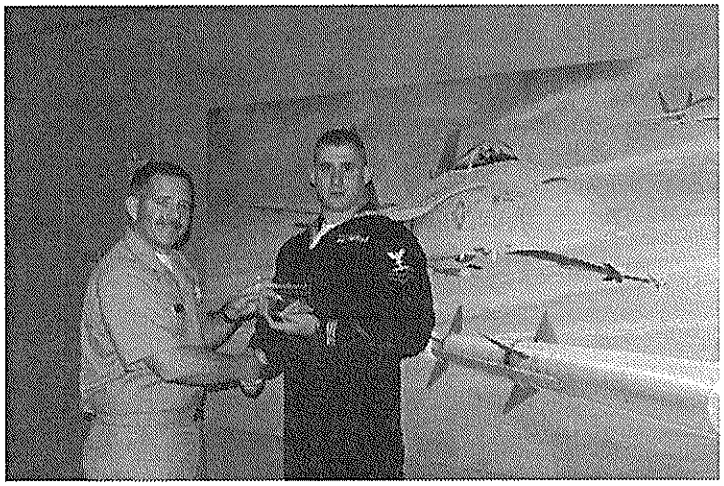
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
STANDARD ROOM - $79
SPA SUITE - $160

MAKE RESERVATIONS BY JUNE 8TH!

For additional convention information, call:

Jim Thomas - 800-783-8646

AMRAAM Outstanding Performer Jan-Jun 2003



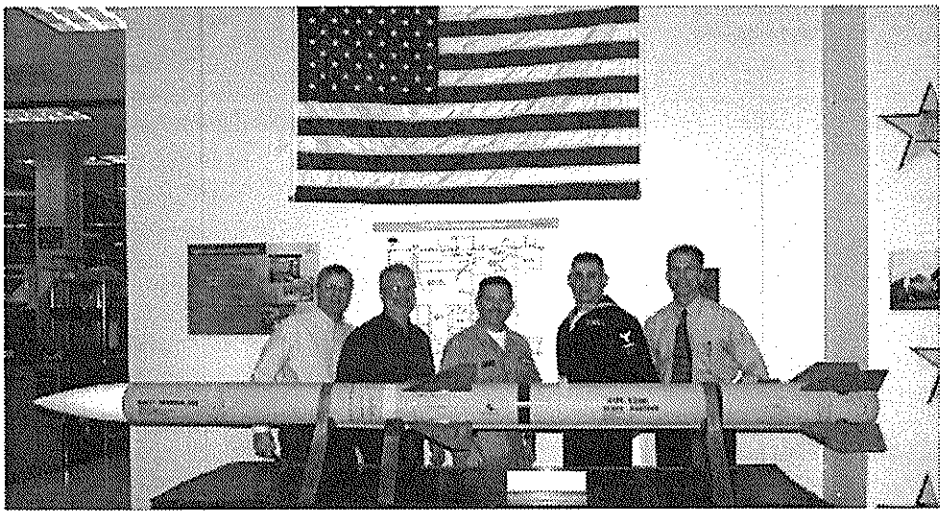
AO2(AW) Scott A. Stout was selected as the Navy/Marine Corp AMRAAM Outstanding Performer for JAN-JUN 2003. Petty Officer Stout is stationed with VFA-131 at NAS Oceana Virginia. His extensive technical knowledge of the AIM-120 played a key role in the training of 23 junior personnel in safe launch and recovery procedures as well as loading procedures which enabled Strike Fighter Squadron One Three One to score a direct hit from a successful firing of a JAIM-120 missile while on detachment to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. Demonstrating strong personal initiative and creative thinking, Petty Officer Stout manufactured a protective nose cover that greatly reduced the risk of damage to radome areas during loading, downloading and normal handling evolutions. Dedicated Red Shirts like Petty Officer Stout make AMRAAM the best air-to-air weapon system in the inventory.

To fully recognize AO2 Stout for his achievement, the Air-to-Air Joint Systems Program Office coordinated and funded a trip for him to our AMRAAM contractors plant (Raytheon) in Tucson, Arizona for a tour of the production facility, dinner in his honor and received a congratulatory plaque from CAPT(Sel) Bill Glenn, Force Weapons Officer COMNAVAIRLANT

For more info on the AMRAAM Outstanding Performer Award given twice a year please see the latest issue of the AMRAAM-O-GRAM AIM-120 INFORMATION LETTER. You can also E-mail joseph.odom2@eglin.af.mil or kevin.meagher@eglin.af.mil with any questions you may have.

IYAOYAS

AOC(AW) Kevin P. Meagher USN/Ret
Commercial: (850) 883-0187
DSN: 875-0187



From left to right; Mr. Brock McCamen, Director of AMRAAM, Raytheon Missile Systems, Mr. Dave Ribble, AMRAAM Program Manager, Raytheon Missile Systems, CAPT(Sel) William Glenn, Force Weapons Officer, COMNAVAIRLANT, AO2(AW) Scott Stout, VFA-131, AMRAAM Outstanding Performer, Mr. Craig Lelicoff, Director of Sustainment/Logistics, Raytheon Missile Systems.

The objectives of The Association shall be to promote the professionalism and safety of the Aviation Ordnance Rating within the United States Navy, Marine Corps and Department of Defense. To provide technical and professional support whenever possible to the Aviation Ordnancemen in the Fleet.

Chapter 8 San Diego, CA

First and foremost We'd like invite all ordies to attend the Chapter 8 annual Picnic at Admiral Baker's Field in the large pavilion on May 15, 2004 at approximately 1000. Come and enjoy the tremendous commodore with ordies from all over the United States. The food and drinks are free and raffle tickets are now on sale for cash prizes.

Life is good in Sunny San Diego. Our Chapter meetings are going very strong. We are always looking for new members and some "not so new members" to join us on the first Thursday of every month at the Fleet Reserve Association in Chula Vista. Please allow us to extend our heartiest welcome to any and all ordies. Feel free to call our president, Scott Lagerquist at home (619) 271-4216 for directions or any questions you may have.

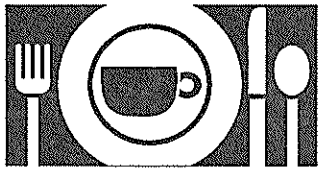
Our "Holiday Hand-Up" went really well this year. Thanks to all of you who donated your time and money to assist our ordnance families.

We've picked up a new stretch of highway for our "Highway Walk" and completed the initial walk on January 3, 2004. In addition, we stopped at John Finn's for a BBQ afterwards. Unfortunately John wasn't home but he is in good health. Thanks to all of you who joined us from the USS Nimitz (CVN 68).

Sincerely,

Scott Lagerquist
Chapter 8 President

AUXILIARY GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING & LUNCHEON



EVERYONE WELCOME!

Saturday, July 10th

General Business Meeting - 11:00 a.m.
Luncheon - 12:30 p.m.

Luncheon Cost and Reservation Information in next Redshirt.

Auxiliary To The Association Of Aviation Ordnancemen

To all Ordnancemen actively serving our great country and to all you retired Ordies (AKA: old farts) who *wish* you were still out there, a belated HAPPY NEW YEAR from the AO Auxiliary. To all the current members of the AO Auxiliary let us resolve to make 2004 the best year ever for our organization.

The question is ... HOW?

Not long ago at a Christmas party I was asked what exactly the AO Auxiliary does? I gave my standard answer: that we originally came together as a social group who met once year at the Convention and our main function is the support of the National AO Association. One of the ways we do this is by an auction of donated items held during the convention social. Making a major contribution to the AO scholarship fund has been our primary goal and it is a good thing. But is it enough?

With some background in marketing I began to analyze our organization as to what and who we are in order to make a plan to move us forward. I found that our group is made up primarily of women of middle age who are wives, mothers, grandmothers and widows. Our commonality is love of God, country and the Ordies who are our husbands, brothers, sons and daughters. As women we are nurturers, caregivers, organizers and planners. We live mostly all over the United States but there are a few active duty wives outside of country.

So ... WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR US?

To me it means that the AO Auxiliary ~ with its membership being scattered far and wide ~ is a great resource for the National AO Association to use directly and personally to support our active duty Ordnancemen who are currently deployed to fight the war on terror. Since there are pockets of us who are grouped in areas where chapters exist we have the opportunity to meet monthly at local meetings. I would like to see Auxiliary members begin a project of personal contact with deployed Ordies and their families. In essence the current Auxiliary members would become mentors. We all know how difficult deployments are .... Lets start reaching out to the folks who are away from home by:

(1.) Making AO Auxiliary more in contact with Weapons Departments to offer personal support to the families left at home. We are the women who have been thru deployments and the difficult times. We have the coping skills and can share our experiences with wives, parents, fiancés, and even girl/boy friends who are at home and need someone to talk to who understands how difficult these extended deployments are.

(2.) Letter writing projects i.e. Getting a class of school children to write "pen pal" letters to The Weapons Department aboard ship. Children love to communicate with persons in the military... have you ever heard of "Flat Stanley"? We could create a flat Gordy Ordie and mail him all over the world. ***Or*** notes could be written thru a Fleet Reserve, VFW, American Legion or even a church group, the possibilities are endless. Certainly these letters would be warmly welcomed and received during a deployment. Can you imagine the fun the Ordies would have writing back to the kids and strangers who appreciate and support them?

(3.) Party Planning. I completely understand that most deployed ordnancemen have their own wives, husbands and families already supporting them BUT what about the few that have no one? Or that are having a tough time? Lets organize and send our ordies a party in a box! Not the usual Valentines, Easter or holiday theme but an off beat theme like Ground Hogs Day or the First Day or Spring. We could send brightly colored paper plates, napkins and decorations. We could bake and send copious quantities of home made chocolate chip cookies (like mom used to make). Use your imagination and gather your friends and neighbors around to help you out. Once your friends are involved they might want to become members of the Auxiliary just to keep tabs on what their Ordies are doing! Remember, this party might only be one day out of a deployment BUT it would be a great fun day that the Auxiliary had provided.

These are just a few ideas that are running around in my head. I would love to hear from you with more. By the time you read this I hope to have contacted each active member of the Auxiliary personally. Now it's time for us to get off our backsides and make something happen.

Oh, speaking of making something happen, did you know that this year our own John Finn will be 95 years young? Got any ideas? I do, please contact me.

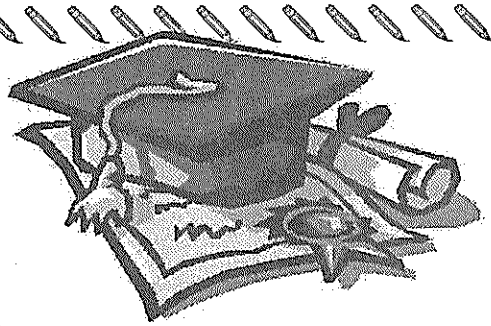
O.K., that's my report for the AO Auxiliary. I can be reached at 315 730-5097. If you can, please call after 9 PM when it's free air time, we are full time RVers and only have cell phones. I haven't checked my e-mail in a month of Sundays but have an e-address of Launstarz@aol.com and Gary's e-mail address is: gary.laun@navy.mil
He will receive, print and bring home any AO/Auxiliary communications.

Thanks for all your help. I look forward to hearing from all of you...Mary Ann Laun

AO Auxiliary Pres.

ORDIEAPPAREL.COM
WE ARE BACK ONLINE!
WE NOW HAVE LADIES DENIM JACKETS AND SHIRTS
NEW "AO" POLOS AND OTHER POLOS AVAILABLE WITH POCKET
FUTURE ITEMS TO BE ADDED:
COINS
AO AND IYAOYAS CHARMS AND ITALIAN BRACELETS
MUGS
SHOT GLASSES
HITCH COVERS
VISIT US AT WWW.ORDIEAPPAREL.COM AND CHECK OUT THE SPECIALS

SCHOLARSHIP-CHAIRMAN



Time is drawing to a close for all scholarship application submissions. All are due to the National Secretary NO latter than 15 June 2004 with selection at the National Convention in Reno, NV- July 8-11, 2004. We are requesting each applicant to include a separate brief biography and a recent photo suitable for publication with each application this year; if already not submitted to the National Secretary for the 2004 scholarship applications and selection consideration. This is an additional request at this time and will become a requirement in 2005.

A change to the scholarship application instructions only, will be sent out to all chapters and web site in July-August 2004 time frame."

Respectfully,

Ed Scott
35 Palmyra Lane
Palm Coast, Florida 32164
(386)445-0968
egunner@lightspeed.net

CHAPTER MEETINGS - PLACES - TIMES - DATES

Chapter 1 - Lemoore, CA
President: AOCS Tim Zimmer
559-998-9320
NAS Lemoore, Ordie Shack
3rd Wednesday, 1700

Chapter 3 - Whidbey Island, WA
President: Kaye Mooney
360-257-5010
VFW Post 7392 (Whidbey)
2nd Wednesday, 1830

Chapter 4 - Virginia Beach, VA
President: Ron Jerasa
757-479-1176
VFW Post 392, Bowland Parkway
3rd Wednesday, 1900

Chapter 5 - China Lake, CA
President: AOCS Dave Cain
760-384-1810
VFW 4080, 117 N. Alvord
3rd Thursday, 1800

Chapter 7 - Naval Base Ventura County, CA
President: GYSGT Vannoordt
805-385-7222
Weapons Dept. Conf Room Bldg. 68, NBVC
1st Wednesday, 1130

Chapter 8 - San Diego, CA
President: Scott Lagerquist,
619-562-8492
Fleet Reserve, Chula Vista
1st Thursday, 1900

Chapter 9 - Jacksonville, FL
President: AOCS Eric Parmley
904-268-7756
Fleet Reserve, Collins Road
3rd Thursday, 1900

Chapter 11 - Kaneohe Bay, HI
President: AO1 Masters
808-839-2226
Call for Meeting Time and Place

Chapter 21 - Fallon, NV
President: AO1 Steve Gahr
775-428-1542
American Legion Post 16 Fallon, NV.
1st Wednesday, 1900

Chapter 22 - Patuxent River
President: Michael Burns
301-863-9952
Fleet Reserve, Patuxent River, MD
3rd Wednesday, 1900

Chapter 63 - USS Kitty Hawk
CV 63 President: Tony Moore
Forward Deployed

Chapter 65 - USS Enterprise
CVN 65 President: AO1 Michael Dasch
On Board

Chapter 68 - USS Nimitz
CVN 68 President: AO1 Samuel Johnson
On Board

Chapter 70 - USS Vinson
CVN 70 President: Ryan P. Burton
On Board

Chapter 72 - USS Lincoln
CVN 72 President: John R. Dodt
On Board

Chapter 74 - USS Stennis
CVN 74 President: AO1 Jose Acala
On Board

Chapter 75 - USS Truman
CVN 75 President: George W. Johnson
On Board

Chapter Pensacola - Pensacola, FL
President: James Lombardo
850-505-7991 Lilian Rd, VFW
1st Thursday, 1830

Chapter Desert/Southwest - El Centro, CA.
President: John G. Cleary Jr.
760-337-4986
Call for Meeting Time and Place

Chapter Key West,
Southern Most President: Jim White
305-293-2420
Geiger Key Mariner, Geiger Key
1st & 3rd Friday, 1300

Chapter CVW 5 - Deployed
President: Anthony Moore
Forward Deployed

2004 CONVENTION RESERVATION APPLICATION

I plan to attend the following activities (please check appropriate ones):

08 Jul (Thur) Board of Directors Meeting _____ 09 Jul (Fri) AO of The Year Committee _____ 09 Jul (Fri) Scholarship Committee _____ 09 Jul (Fri) AAO Hall of Fame Committee_____ 09 Jul (Fri) Membership Committee _____ 09 Jul (Fri) Nominations Committee_____ 09 Jul (Fri) By-Laws Committee_____	09 Jul (Fri) AAO Social ($25.00 per person in advance, $45.00 at the convention)_____ 10 Jul (Sat) General Business Meeting _____ 10 Jul (Sat) Awards Banquet ($35.00 per person in advance, $55.00 at the convention) _____ 11 Jul (Sun) Board of Directors Meeting _____

AUXILIARY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN

08 Jul (Thur) Board of Directors Meeting_____ 10 Jul (Sat) General Business Meeting/ Luncheon_____	11 Jul (Sun) Board of Directors Meeting _____

NOTES

1. Request that you please bring your AO Name Tag Button (received at previous conventions). The Association will provide new convention ribbons. For those who need them new buttons will be provided.
2. Committee Chairmen will require the assistance from the membership for the above listed committees. Please indicate committee or committees that you wish to participate in.

ADVANCED TICKET ORDERING INFORMATION

Payment of the Registration Fee is required to attend any meeting or convention function. Registration Fees must be paid prior to purchasing tickets for the Social and/or Awards Banquet. Registration Fees are not required for dependents 17 and under. However, they must purchase tickets to attend the Social and/or Awards Banquet.

For active duty E-4 and below:

1 year free membership in the Association is included in your registration fee. If you are already a member your membership will be extended one year. To qualify for this special registration package please include a completed application with your registration and or ticket order.

ORDERS & MONEY FOR ADVANCE REGISTRATION FEES, AAO SOCIAL AND AWARDS BANQUET TICKETS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN THURSDAY 10 JUNE 2004. ORDERS & MONEY RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE RETURNED. (ORDER FORM MAY BE FOUND ON THE OTHER SIDE)

ADVANCE ORDER FORM

For Registration Fees, AAO Social and/or Awards Banquet ONLY send check or money order made payable to and mailed to:

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN
J.J. LaMaitre
P.O. BOX 711167
Santee, CA 92072-1167

Advance Registration Fees (choose appropriate category):

1. Member only $15.00 ($25.00 at the convention) $_____

Name of Member _____
(please print)

2. Member & 1 Guest or Spouse $20.00 ($30.00 at the convention) $_____

Name of Member_____
(please print)

Name of Guest/Spouse _____
(please print)

3. Additional Guests 18 and over $5.00 $_____

Names of Guests_____
(please print)

_____

_____

_____

Advance Social & Awards Banquet ticket prices:

AAO Social $25.00 each ($45.00 at the convention) $_____

Awards Banquet $35.00 each ($55.00 at the convention) $_____

Total amount enclosed $_____

Mail My Tickets to:

Your name_____

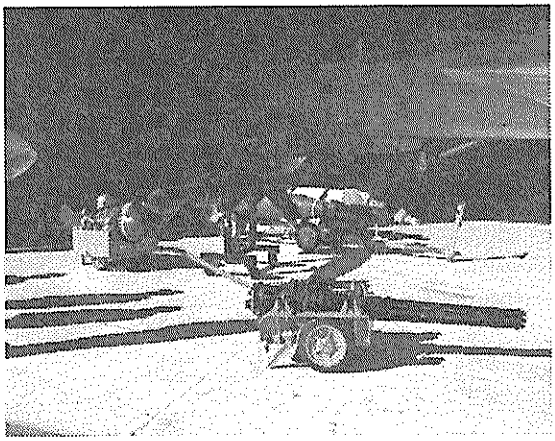
Address_____

City_____,State_____Zip_____

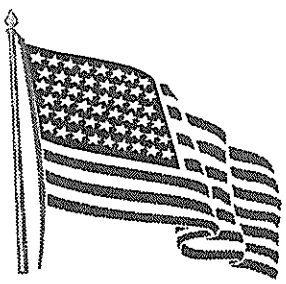
Phone number_____

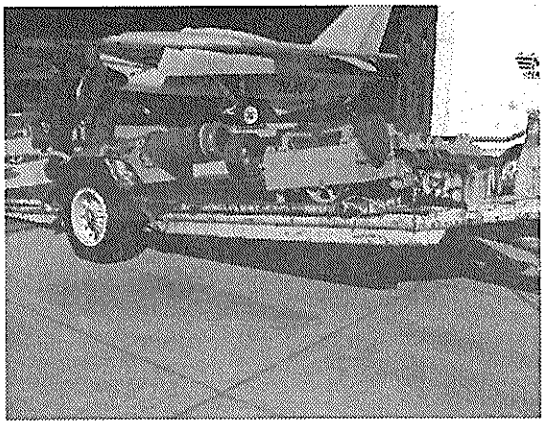
AO Museum Committee

Hello from sunny Pensacola. This is an article that is long over due. I would first like to apologize to our President, and the entire association for its delay. But getting through the red tape and beauracracy has been murder. Anyhow, progress has finally reached a fevered pitch. Of the 561 articles assigned to the Aviation Ordnance Museum, 559 have now been turned over to the permanent custody of the National Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Florida. The two remaining articles are the AIM-54 Phoenix and our beloved 1942 Bomb Truck. These items will hopefully be moved within the next couple of weeks. Items finally began moving 27 January 2004, as you can see in the following photos.



I met with Bill Johnson again on 20 January 2004. Bill is the Department Head for Operations and Maintenance of the National Aviation Museum. I received the latest and greatest relative to future plans, to secure a "Stand Alone" section identified as the Aviation Ordnance Museum Wing / Area. He assures me that this is still the direction that he is pursuing, especially since he has now seen the sincerity and dedication of our Ordnance Association to this cause. He also informed me that the Smithsonian Association (which was dedicating a large number of aircraft to the upcoming addition to the Aviation Museum) has pulled back several aircraft that were in line for dedication. This is great news for our Ordnance Association, due to the fact that there will be an excess of floor space available. Also helping in this effort are the





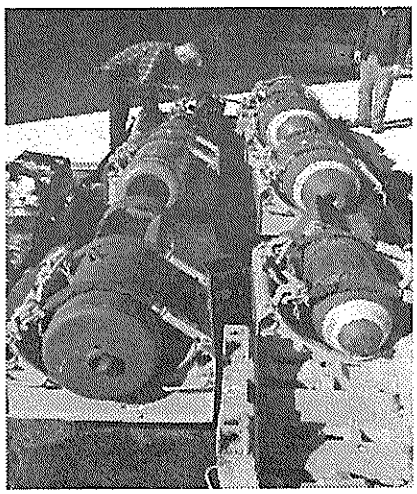
program managers for some new weapons programs, e.g. JDAM, AMRAAM, JASSM, AIM-9X (hopefully), that are donating inert shapes to the Museum. JDAM has already been delivered, thanks to the efforts of Dwight Jantzen and AOCS (Retired) Jake Soriano. AMRAAM is also in the mail, thanks to Joe Odom of the AMRAAM Program Office. Hopefully all other weapon programs will follow this trend to demonstrate our latest and greatest "tools of the trade", depicting our capability for spreading peace and good will in defense of our great nation.

A detailed list of items which have been delivered, and those which are still awaiting delivery to the Naval Aviation Museum, will be provided to the President and will be available at this years convention in Reno. Please be patient. I have learned that this is a slow and painful process, but you could not ask for it to be orchestrated in a more professional and efficient manner, than what is being performed by the Naval Aviation Museum and their staff.

Again thank you for the patience and I will see you at the convention. **I.Y.A.O.Y.A.S.**

Sincerely,

Tim Carroll, Chairman
John Sweeney, Co-Chairman



The Association of Aviation Ordnancemen
Http://welcome.to/AAO

PRESIDENT
CDR David H. Lepard
707 Sunrise Terrace
Fallon, NV 89406
(W) 775.426.3526
(H) 775.428.2223
AAOPresident@aaoweb.org

VICE PRESIDENT
LCDR Larry "Joe" Manley, USN/Ret.
2099 Thomas Court
Fallon NV 89406-8703
(W) 775.426.2877
(H) 775.423.9205
Fax (W) 775.426.2878
AAOVP@aaoweb.org

SECRETARY
AOCM Dennis Costa, USN/Ret.
722 E. Avenue
Coronado, CA 92118
(H) 619.435.3757
(W) 619.545.8492
Fax (H) 619.435.3757 on demand
Fax (W) 619.545.8505
AAOSecretary@aaoweb.org

TREASURER
AOCM J.J. LaMaitre, USN/Ret.
P.O. Box 711167
Santee, CA 92072-2585
(H) 619.749.3679
(W) 619.545.2585
AAOTreasurer@aaoweb.org

EDITOR
AOC Kevin P. Meagher, USN/Ret
21 Wedgewood Lane NE
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547
(W) 850.883.0187
(H) 850.243.0237
AAORedShirtEditor@aaoweb.org

From The Editor:

Please Send In Any Comments, Ideas Or Pictures You May Have

The Red Shirt

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage PAID

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANC
P.O. BOX 711167
SANTEE, CA 92072-1167

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED