

October 2009

The Association of Aviation Ordnancemen

THE RED SHIRT

[Http://aaoweb.org/AAO](http://aaoweb.org/AAO)

Issue #110

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



Celebrating

100

Years

Of Honor





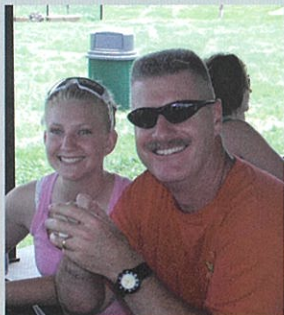
Joe M. Hill, an ordnance technical representative, explains the mechanics of the Advanced Medium Range Air-Air Missile (AMRAAM) to members of the ordnance department of Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 211.



Above, Ron Reed doing log book maintenance
Below, NWS Earle Missile Maintenance Facility



Chapter 22 Summer Picnic



Ed Scotts induction into the AAO Hall of Fame



**The Association of
Aviation Ordnancemen**
Http://aaoweb.org/AAO

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MOVING?

Your Change of
Address is
Important . . . Please submit
one to the
national treasurer



CHAPTER MEETINGS - PLACES - TIMES - DATES

Chapter 1 - Lemoore, CA
President: LCDR Gerry Gladders
559-998-3535
Fleet Reserve, Lemoore
3rd Monday, 1730

Chapter 3 - Whidbey Island, WA
President: AO1 Dustin "Roy" Edsall
Dustin.edsall@navy.mil
360-257-2077
VFW Post 7392 (Whidbey)
2nd Wednesday, 1730

Chapter 4 - Virginia Beach, VA
President: AOC Mike Hayden
757-433-2339
Moose Lodge, VA Beach
3rd Wednesday, 1630

Chapter 5 - China Lake, CA
President: AOC Robert Vergara
760-939-9971
VFW 4084, 117 N. Alvord
2nd Flex Thursday, 1830

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

Chapter 8 - San Diego, CA
President: AO1 Nanise M. Schroeder
619-545-6221
Fleet Reserve, Chula Vista
1st Thursday, 1900

Chapter 9 - Jacksonville, FL
President: AO1 Daniel Pratt
904-542-8541
Fleet Reserve, Collins Road
3rd Thursday, 1900

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

Chapter 21 - Fallon, NV
President: AO1 T. Hixson
775-217-3457
American Legion Post 16 Fallon, NV.
1st Wednesday, 1900

Chapter 22 - Patuxent River
President: AOC(AW/SW) Christian Saxon
301-997-0036
VFW, Post 2632 California, MD
3rd Wednesday, 1900

Chapter 39 "Dude Gilbert" - Beaufort, SC
President: Del Tingley
843-228-7827
Delroy.d.tingley@usmc.mil

Chapter 63 - USS Kitty Hawk
CV 63 President: AO1 Shawn M. Peacock
Forward Deployed

Chapter 65 - USS Enterprise
CVN 65 President: AO1 Julius Carter
On Board

Chapter 68 - USS Nimitz
CVN 68 President: AO1 Luis Nergon
Luis.Nergon@cvn68.navy.mil
On Board

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

Chapter 72 - USS Lincoln
CVN 72 President: AO1 Anthony Diego
On Board

Chapter 74 - USS Stennis
CVN 74 President: CWO4 Eric Richmond
On Board

Chapter 75 - USS Truman
CVN 75 President: AO1 Wes Thompson
On Board

Chapter 76 - USS Ronald Reagan
CVN-76 President: AO1 Gregory Johnson
On Board

Chapter Key West,
Southern Most President: AO2 Ryan Smith
305-293-2420
Southernmost VFW Post 3911
1st Thursday, 1700

Chapter Pensacola - Pensacola, FL
President: AO1 James Mackie
James.mackie@navy.mil
850-452-7385 ext 4183
Kooter Browns
1st Wednesday, 1830

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

Chapter CVW 5 - Deployed
President: AO1 Corey Hester
Forward Deployed



Letters To The Editor

JJ,

"Live Bleed Die Ordnance since 1926".

Though it is just an e-mail address, I felt as if I should share it with you. I have lived every day since my conception in this wonderful rate to live up to and uphold the values of an Ordnanceman. I do not regret one bomb built, one missile armed, or one arm locked to another, in preparation for a launch, even knowing that the outcome is going to be another man's life in return.

I praise the Ordies, like yourself I'm sure, that showed me the path and never gave up. I thank them all for their wit and their stubbornness. Their comradery and their knowledge. And most of all, their stern, but firm, fair, and consistent leadership.

I stand proud every day and walk with great pride, as many do, that I was afforded an opportunity to serve in such a capacity that develops excellent men and women within the Aviation Ordnance community. I live every single day as an Ordnanceman, nothing less.

This e-mail was an instant thought. It just came... I thought of the help you offered and assisted with on my Lifetime Membership. I had to write something down.

I have been telling stories for weeks, to several men and women, about the fearless efforts of John W. Finn. Many do not know who he is, nor care. But they listened nonetheless. How fitting is it, for John W. Finn to have enlisted in the Navy the same year the Aviation Ordnanceman Rate was established, and so close to our establishment, to be honored as the only Ordie to receive this great recognition. And yet John is so humble...what a man! A man he is, but an Ordnanceman he will always be.

It was men like that in which inspiration first developed inside my inner core, as the "piss pot" began for me in Pen-

To all chapters,

Please review your information on the Chapter Meetings - Places - Times - Dates section on page 3. E-mail your changes to me and Dennis Costa. I know some of the phone numbers don't match up and I also need a few E-mail addresses. I get the occasional call from AO's inquiring about a meeting in a certain area and its nice to give them up to date information. If you don't see your chapter on here let me know that also please.

Thanks for the help, Editor

sacola, FL, spring of '98. I received my first patch and it was a Medal of Honor commemorative patch for John W. Finn. I hold that patch dear, as it rests now on a quilt full of patches put together by my mom, with many others gathered over the years.

JJ, this e-mail was a sporadic decision and encompasses many thoughts, as I now read over it. Perhaps you may think I am an author, but I am not. I am just a man. And a proud one at that. I began this e-mail with only one question in mind, but ended up with many thoughts prior to.

My question is, if possible, but most definitely understandable, if it's not, is to have my Lifetime Membership dated for the 23rd of July, 2009. That may delay shipment to dad's house in which I am completely understanding of. But if someone has already requested the same as I, then I am grateful for that man or woman who has thought as I have, in this memorable day to come.

JJ, have a great day, God bless, and continue your dire support to the Ordnance community. It is most appreciated.

v/r,
AOI(AW) Justin L. Darnell
"Living Ordnance"
"Bleeding Ordnance"
"Will Die Ordnance"
IYAOYAS! est. 1926
HAPPY 100th JOHN!



EDITOR
AOC Kevin P. Meagher, USN/Ret.
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Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547
(H) 850.243.0237
(W) 850.883.0187
kevin.meagher@eglin.af.mil



Kevin,

Let me introduce myself, I'm Juan Morris AOCM (RET) I work for FWST NAS NORTH ISLAND, attached a picture of the 1st annual NAVY/MARINE CORP ORDIE RIDE in San Diego. We had 21 bikes-21 riders & 2 passengers, between me and MAJ Greg Edwards AIR FORCES ARMAMENT SYSTEMS we organized the event and hopefully will keep this going. If you could slide it into the REDSHIRT it would be greatly appreciated and let our ORDIES that are deployed or in theater know that hopefully they can make the next event...which we call the PBJ run (Palomar-Borrego-Julian). Thank you Kevin.

Juan J. Morris
NAVAIR FWST
COMNAVAIRPAC
SAN DIEGO, CA

Great Pic Juan, I included on the back page!
Kevin

Sir,

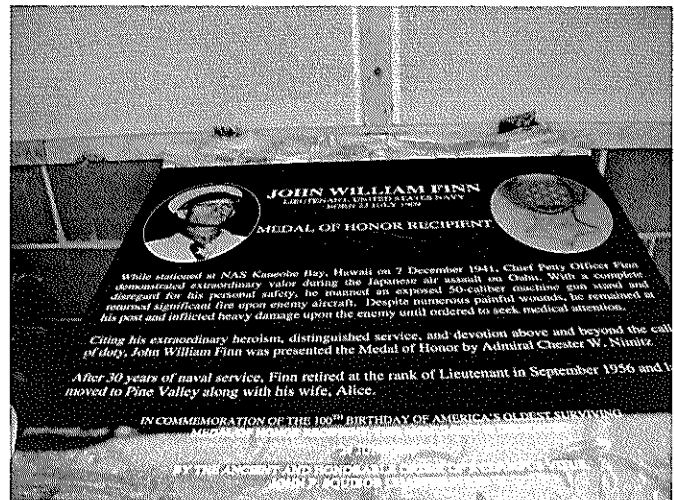
I am a member of the association searching for anyone that was in VA-25 from 1963-1964. Thank you. Harlan G. Sanderson, AO2, VA-25, USS Midway CVA-41, 1963-1964

If anyone can help shoot me an E-mail and I'll get you all in touch.
Kevin

All,

Here are a few of the pictures I took today at John's Birthday celebration at the La Posta Diner. This was a big event and as you can see from the pictures, John was looking great at 99 years and 337 days old. I think I can speak for Erik Swanson, it was definitely an event not to be missed. Medal of Honor Recipient, John Baca was there and you can see him with John and in a couple of the pictures talking with a gentleman who put together an awesome motorcycle tribute to the military folks who were at Pearl Harbor when we were attacked on Dec 7, 1941. You can see where John Finn signed the gas tank. Also, the granite marker you will see was dedicated to John as was Historic California U.S. 80 is now called John Finn Route. For the record, John was born on July 24, 1909 and not July 23, 1909 as you will see in just about every publication that you read about John, including the very nice granite marker they dedicated to John today.

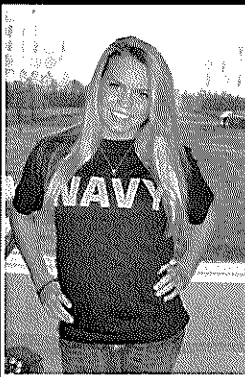
The CO of NAF El Centro was the MC for the event, so Erik got to see his Installation CO. Big Brownie points for Erik!!!! :-). For those who don't know Erik, he's the big guy in the red AO shirt with his lovely wife Laurdes. My wife



Amy is in a few pictures with Erik and Laurdes as well. I hope you all enjoy the pictures.

Barry Stemmler

Outstanding pics Barry, thanks...more on pg 31
Kevin



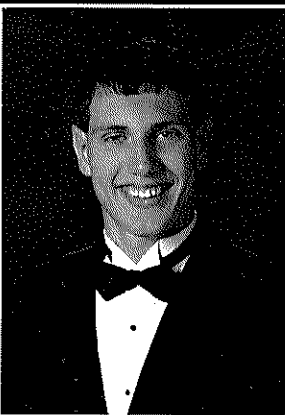
I am deeply honored to be one of the recipients of the 2009 Robert L. Crow Memorial Scholarship Award's. This is a great privilege and I would like to thank every person who has donated their money and time to this worthy cause that gives many students the opportunity to go to college and continue their education. I hope to attend an AAO Convention one year and personally thank each member who has played a part in financing my education.

I will be continuing my second year at James Madison University where I am majoring in Media Arts and Design with a concentration in Journalism and a minor in French. The first week of school, this semester and next semester, always require expensive bookstore purchases which is greatly assisted by this scholarship. Considering the cost of college today, this award is truly a blessing. Now I just have a long year ahead of me to look forward to and concentrate on what matters most.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone that makes up the AAO for their generosity, support and confidence in me to further my education and reach a dream.

Sincerely,

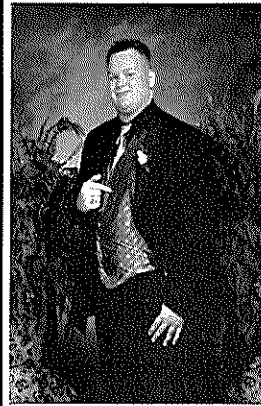
Megan Harman



I would like to thank each of you for choosing me as a recipient of the Raytheon Scholarship Award. The money I was awarded has been well invested in my education as I began my freshman year at Old Dominion University. Thanks to this generous scholarship lessening the financial burden, I am more able to focus on my goal of becoming a Physical Therapist.

Sincerely and gratefully,

Adam Swygert



It is with great pleasure and thanks that I accept the Raytheon Missile Systems Award. For thirty years the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen has given the gift of education to young minds eager to learn. This generous award will cover my entry into the Nursing Program at Florida State College at Jacksonville. A full time student schedule coupled with a full time work schedule is no easy task, however, the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen, with the partnership of Raytheon has alleviated my financial situation. It is an honor to be among this year's recipients. Thank you for giving me the opportunity of success.

Sincerely,

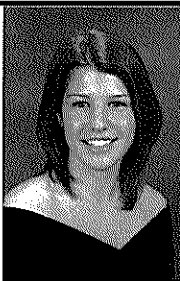
Jonathan King



To the Members of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen, It is with much appreciation that I am writing you this letter to thank you for your support. I am now entering my third year at Old Dominion University

and I am well on my way to being an alumni. This year I want to thank the members for awarding me the Robert E. Crow Scholarship. The funds from the scholarship will help me with paying for classes and offsetting the cost of books. I am thankful that your members value education as much as I do.

Thank you again,
Karl Swygert



Dear AAOEF Members,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your generous contribution to my college education. I am honored to have been awarded this scholarship as it greatly reduces my financial need. Your generosity is greatly appreciated .

Thank you,

Katelyn Harvey



Dear Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Education Foundation,

I am truly honored to receive the Robert L. Crow scholarship of 2009. I cannot express my gratitude for this award in just words alone.

I have just started my first semester of college at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls, Idaho. I am majoring in photography and I hope to be able to do a study abroad program in the next few years. I will spend this semester and the rest of my college years showing my family, community, and country that I am worthy of receiving this award.

Again, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,

Danielle Manley



Association of Aviation Ordnancemen,

I thought getting into college, and keeping a good study schedule once there, would be the hardest parts of leaving high school.

Affording my education was something I did not truly realize until I entered college and really began to get a taste of life. Receiving the Robert L. Crow scholarship has gone a long way to help me through this first year. I would like to wholeheartedly thank the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen and all those who donated towards this scholarship for choosing me as a recipient. I am enjoying college and San Francisco State offers me more opportunities than I could ever imagine. I have joined the pre-medical/pre-nursing association and have started my prerequisite classes for entrance to the nursing program. I will not disappoint those who graciously donated towards this scholarship and I hope one day in the future I can do the same for some other high school student. Thank you again for making my education possible.

Sincerely,

Emily Gladders



Thank you! Thank you for bestowing your generosity upon me and my pursuit of education. The Robert L Crow Scholarship awarded to me will certainly ease the financial burden of student loans this year; for that I am very appreciative. Additionally, thank you for the warm welcome extended to my family and I at this year's convention. It was a pleasure to be

a part of the festivities!

While sitting in on this year's AAO convention, I was impressed and inspired by your support of higher education. It was truly amazing to see a room full of people come together, linked not only by their profession, but also by their joy in perpetuating a tradition of achievement, excellence, and education, to award such a large sum of money to students in need. I am proud to be recognized by the members of this organization as I work towards and complete my graduate studies in physical therapy. I look forward to one day following your example.

Again I wish to thank you for your time, consideration, and for your immense generosity.

Sincerely,

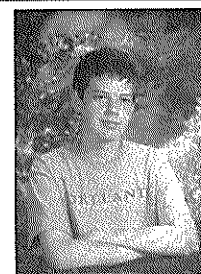
Hillary Robins



Audra Parmley



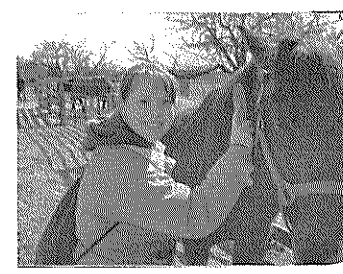
Chelsea Strameyer



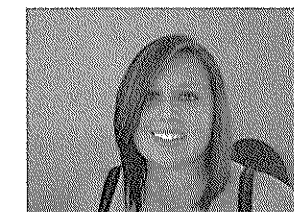
John Wiley



Jennifer Parmley



Justine Crutchfield



Katrina Nelson



**Association Of Aviation Ordnancemen
Educational Foundation Election Notice**

At the 2010 Convention, during the first Association Board of Directors meeting, the AAO's Board of Directors will hold elections for a number of Officer Positions in the AA-OEF. I as Foundation President am soliciting advance nominations for the following offices:

Office	Incumbent
Vice President	CDR Mike Gramolini
Treasurer	Dennis Costa (has indicated will not seek reelection)
Board of Director	Larry Cowell
Board of Director- Auxiliary Representa- tive	Shannon N. Mullins

Eligibility requirements for these offices and the duties of the office are in the AAOEF Bylaws, which you can find by going to: <http://aaoweb.org/AAO> then clicking on Scholarship Information then scroll down to and click on the By-laws section. All individuals seeking election should familiarize themselves with this information and then have a Regular Member of the Association nominate them. All are reminded of scholarship application or sponsor restrictions imposed to all officers within IRS directives.

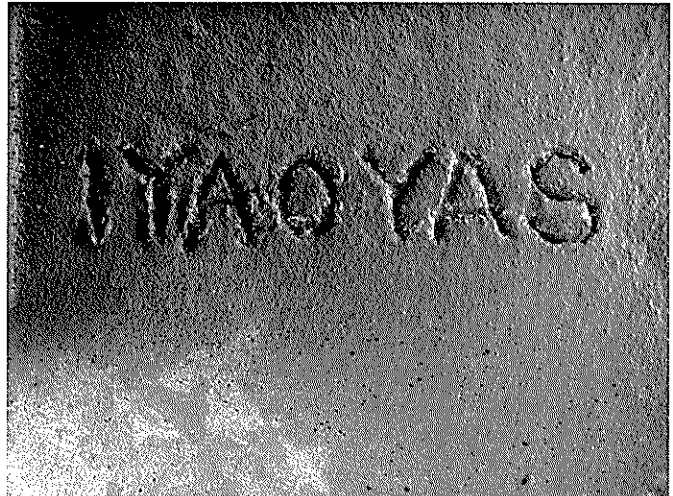
I, as President of the Foundation, will be accepting advance nominations by U.S. Mail or E-Mail for collection and presentation to the Associations President. The deadline for submitting advance nominations is 30 days prior to the first AAO Board Meeting. To make a nomination you must be a Regular Member of the Association and a written acceptance by your nominee must accompany your nomination. All nominations of individuals received will be verified as current Regular Members of the Association; if applicable, Auxiliary through the National Treasurer or Auxiliary Treasurer. According to AAOEF Bylaws, Article V, Section 2 and Article VI, Section 4 contains specific requirements for individuals that are to be nominated for Treasurer ONLY.

Nominations will also be taken from the floor during the first meeting of the Association's Board of Directors. All are reminded of scholarship application or sponsor restrictions imposed to all officers within IRS directives.

Mail advance nominations to: 35 Palmyra Lane, Palm Coast, FL 32164-7517 or E-Mail them to: egunner@lightspeed.net.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (386) 445-0968 (H)/ (386) 405-6940 (Cell).

Edward C. Scott
AAOEF President



IN SEARCH OF.....

We are currently looking for motivated persons or person to take on the task of soliciting possible advertising for the Red Shirt as well as handling all of the vendors and developing new vendors for the upcoming and future conventions. If you are interested please shoot me an e-mail or give me a call and I will get you started in the right direction. Jim Thomas has been handling vendors since the beginning and has been doing an outstanding job. One stipulation is that you cannot be a government employee.

Thanks.....Kevin

ON THE COVER

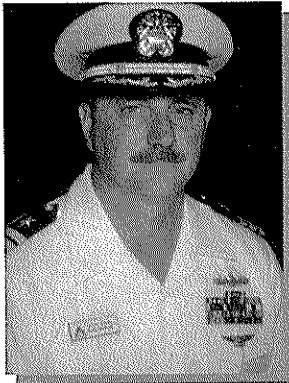
Cover designed by Richard "Spike" Pittman, Director, Visual Information Services COMNAVAIRLANT

Thanks Spike!

NOTICE: Looking for any kind of information/pictures on the following Association of Aviation Hall of Fame inductees. CDR Roy Asher, U.S.N., RET., AOCM Frank H. Parker, U.S.N., RET., LCDR Leslie H. Ovre, U.S.N., RET., AOCM Robert Branum, U.S.N., RET., and AOCS Richard A. Smith. Information can be mailed to Charles Onken, 291 W. Spruce Place, Lemoore, CA. 93245-1970 or e-mail to onkenc@sbcglobal.net. Phone: 559-924-2503
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP ! Chuck Onken



AAO President



Greeting's fellow Ordnancemen:

First I need to thank you all for your vote for my re-election as your Association President!!! I'm truly overwhelmed and humbled and look forward to providing our organization the leadership and direction it deserves.

With the 2009 Convention now behind us, I can tell you we had an outstanding turn-out and attendance in Reno this year, and it sure was great to see so many shipmates, both from the retired and active duty roles. Start thinking now about Reno for 2010, all attempts will be made to make even better than this year's.

We were honored this year by having three Admirals share some time with us in Reno first RDML Dave Dunaway, Commander: Operational Test and Evaluation Force shared his leadership with us during the Symposium and he certainly motivated us with a current status of the future of Naval Warfare, then on Friday we were honored to have RDML Mark D. Guadagnini: Chief of Naval Air Training join us and he shared his time and leadership view points and inspirational words on the a current state of Naval Aviation training, and finally we were honored on Saturday evening by having RDML Scott H. Swift; Commander, Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 9 as our guest speaker at our Awards dinner. RDML Swift also gave us the first hand insight of his CSG and it accomplishments. Following the Dinner RDML Swift announced the 2009 Aviation Ordnancemen of the Year, along with the Hall of Fame selections.

Check out the Scholarship recipients for this year in Ed's input.

Sorry for such a short input this time, but I'm headed to Commander Naval Air Forces Pacific, and have packed out the household goods and must get this to Kevin. Thanks to all that are the backbone of the Association you know who you are, keep leaning forward in all that you do, and we will continue to make this Association even better. Finally always remember if you cant do it by the book then don't do it at all.

Very respectfully, CAPT Dave Lepard



AAO Treasurer

CONVENTION – Had a huge turn out for this years Symposium and Convention in Reno. Start making plans NOW for Convention 2010 at the Silver Legacy. I want to thank Joe Manley, Gary Witte, and the crew from the USS Truman for the assist for the Registration table.

Have you had a promotion, change of status (recently retired) or phone number change? If so give me a shout at the contact info below so I can update your record.

Address changes have gotten better, BUT are still costing your Association. Sign up to get yours electronically!!! All you have to do is go to the web site, and download the Red Shirt. If you move or have a PCS coming up get those address changes to me prior to the move. You can make them via the web site, via snail mail; phone (619)562-8492; or (preferred) you can e-mail them to me at aootreas@cox.net.

FYI the US Postal Service has an on-line Change of Address section, see it at www.usps.com.

On a personal note, we lost a shipmate who was very active in both the Nimitz Chapter and the San Diego Chapter. She was the ultimate Ordie and took care and trained the new kids on the block. AO3 Melissa J. Thornton was reenlisted by John Finn during the July 4th Parade in Coronado. God Bless Melissa, you will be missed.

Until next time IYAOYAS.

JJ LaMaitre

AAO Treasurer

AAO Secretary

Greetings Ordies,

Our convention was awesome.... Lots of sea stories told, cigars smoked, beer drank at the Hernia Bar!!!! We also gave out \$28,000.00 in educational Scholarships to our deserving dependents, selected to the Hall of Fame LCDR Chuck Cole (ret) and CWO4 Ed Scott (ret) and ; choose as our AO of the Year from 67 outstanding packages, AO1 (AW/SW) William Stanton of the USS Harry S. Truman, and Runner-up AO1 (AW) Daniel Pratt of VP-9.. Congrats to all of our winners.....

Dennis Costa , AAO Secretary

722 E Ave

Coronado Ca 92118

aocm@aol.com Home dennis.costa@navy.mil Work

619-540-9768 Home 619-545-8492 Work

619-545-8505 Fax



From the desk of the Chaplain

Greetings Fellow Ordies;

Well the convention is in the books and we getting back to work.

I have just returned from a 2 week vacation. My wife and I went to Bowling Green Ky. and then came home via Route 66. On that trip we saw some wonderful sights. One was a 193 ft. cross in Groom Texas. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groom%2C_Texas

The next was miracle staircase built in a chapel in Santa Fe New Mexico. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loretto_Chapel

Both of these were constructed by human hands. I'm convinced that both were inspired by God. Take a minute to follow the links for a bit of insight and some beautiful pictures.

The other attraction is not manmade. No man or group of men could possibly have accomplished what we saw at the Grand Canyon. <http://www.nps.gov/grca/photosmultimedia/index.htm>

We had an awesome, much needed time of relaxation. If you can call 4150 miles in 14 days relaxation.

I thank you for allowing me to share a bit of personal information.

Please remember all our brothers and sisters in arms, where ever they might be. Pray for their protection and a safe speedy return to their home and loved ones.

If any of you know of a shipmate (active or retired) that is in need please try to at least send them a card or an e-mail or phone call. And while you are at it drop me an e-mail, a phone call, card or letter with their name and address and what the need may be. That way I can also contact them on behalf of the Association.

I am including this again because I feel it is important. Red Shirt Friday is catching on all around the nation. We had our red shirts on on Friday at the Grand Canyon. We had numerous people ask us about the shirts, or made some comment about the shirts. All thought it was a great idea. Let's all encourage our friends and those around us to pay tribute to those serving our country by wearing a red shirt on Fridays. If every one of us share this with acquaintances, co-workers, friends, and family. It will not be long before the USA is covered in red. By word of mouth, let's make the United States, on every Friday, a sea of red much like a homecoming football game in the bleachers. Red isn't just

for Ordnance anymore.

May the good Lord Bless you and keep you.....

Chaplain Mart



TAPS

AOCM Gary L. Henkind USN Ret.

*AO1 John P. Lyons

Norman Burgess

*AOC Robert L. Godin

AO3 Melissa J. Thornton

*AOC Allen L. Lester

*AOC John W. Moluski

AO1 Bernard 'Jay' Vandegriff Jr.

AO1 Francis J. Reilly USN Ret.

LCDR Denny C. Fitzgerald USN Ret.

*AO2 Calvin O. Pettis Sr.

*AOC William J. Powell

AO1 Roy L. Deason USN Ret.

AO1 Laurence R. Ennis USN Ret.

AOCS George Batterman USN Ret.

*AOCS Darrell K. Goodhew

*AOC David R. Layman

*AO1 Charles S. Morrison

AOC Charles Oliver

**AOAN Darren E. Tate

*AOC James M. Lowe

AOC Charles C. Manis

* Info from FRA Today Newsletter ** Info from VFW Magazine

Red Shirt Articles

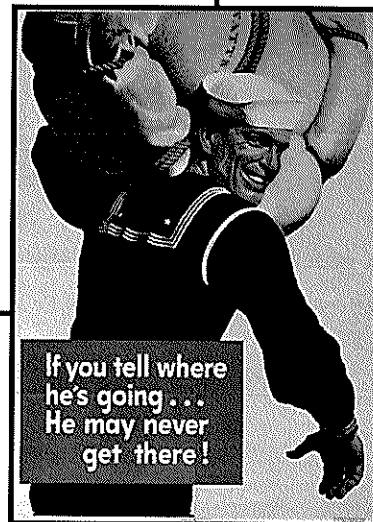
are due

20 JAN 10

20 MAY 10

20 SEP 10

Please submit via
e-mail
when possible



If you tell where
he's going...
He may never
get there!



Happy Birthday John Finn

John William Finn was born on 23 July 1909 and enlisted in the navy in 1926, and became an Aviation Ordnanceman and worked his way through the enlisted ranks, being promoted to Chief Petty Officer in only nine years.

In 1941, John Finn was stationed in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii with VP-41.

On the morning of 7 December 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, he manned a .50 caliber machine gun mounted in an exposed ramp area. He fired upon the enemy and reports indicated he single-handedly shot down one Japanese aircraft killing the pilot.

John was under heavy enemy machine gun fire and he was severely wounded, sustained approximately 21 wound marks throughout his body, including shrapnel in his chest and abdomen.

Nine months later, Admiral Chester Nimitz awarded Aviation Ordnanceman Chief Petty Officer John Finn the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest award while on board USS Enterprise. John's citation was signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Admiral Halsey who was on board the Enterprise, quoted as saying "Finn's magnificent courage in the face of almost certain death helped repel the Japanese attack. His complete disregard for his own life, in staying with his machine gun, although many times wounded, is the kind of American fighting spirit necessary to victory."

Today is John W. Finn's 100th birthday.

Finn is the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient and is also the only living Pearl-Harbor-Day Medal of Honor recipient.

Finn is the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from the attack on Pearl Harbor, as well as being the oldest living recipient. John Finn is the only Aviation Ordnanceman Medal of Honor recipient in the history of the rate. In addition to all of this, Finn's Medal of Honor is the only medal of its kind with a citation on the back summarizing the events of heroism.

To tell his story, his manner and style of speaking gives a hint to why that WW2 generation is the greatest generation this nation has ever seen.

Happy 100th Birthday to John W. Finn, a Great American Hero.

"A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers"...President John F. Kennedy



Pearl Harbor Hero Is 100 Years Old Today
(RAMONA SENTINEL (AZ) 23 JUL 09) ... Harold J. Schachter

This edition of the Ramona Sentinel is dated the same day that Medal of Honor recipient John William Finn turns 100. Some of you reading this will recognize who John Finn is. I suspect, however, that most of you will not.

John William Finn is our nation's oldest living recipient of its highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor (MoH). He is also the last surviving MoH recipient who earned his medal on Dec. 7, 1941, the last living recipient of the Navy's MoH from World War II, and the only MoH recipient having his Navy rating, that of an Aviation Ordnanceman, to ever be awarded the MoH in the history of the United States Navy.

John William Finn was born in Los Angeles on July 23, 1909. In July of 1926, as soon as John turned 17, he enlisted in the Navy. When, on Sunday morning, Dec. 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked Hawaii, then a U.S. Territory, John was 32 years old and had attained the rank of Chief Petty Officer (CPO), then the highest enlisted non-commissioned officer rank in the naval service.

John was stationed at Naval Air Station Kaneohe Bay, about 15 miles east-northeast of Pearl Harbor, on Oahu's southeastern shore. Chief Finn had recognized the air station's vulnerability to possible air attack and had strongly recommended to his superiors that they take measures to establish anti-aircraft defenses to protect the naval base from possible attack, but his urgings, for whatever reasons, were ignored. So, when the attack came on that first Sunday morning in December, Chief Finn single-handedly mounted a 50-caliber machine gun on a stand on the base's aircraft parking ramp and began firing on any attacking enemy aircraft that he could bear on.

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John's position was totally exposed to enemy strafing and bombing attacks, but he kept it up for more than two hours while under attack, despite being wounded five times and in severe pain. Fellow sailors implored him to seek medical care for his wounds, but John steadfastly refused to vacate his firing position until he received a direct order to do so from a superior officer.

Twenty pieces of shrapnel were removed from John's body by the base's medical staff.

John has remarked that, while he was scared, being exposed like that, he "was so damn mad" that what he feared might happen was now happening and that all his warnings and urgings had been in vain. He's said that his anger overruled his fear and he kept on shooting.

John's actions that Dec. 7th morning were briefly depicted by an unnamed and uncredited actor in the 1970 epic motion picture, *Tora! Tora! Tora!*

On Sept. 15, 1942, CPO John William Finn received his Medal of Honor, the first one to be awarded in World War II. It was presented to him by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz in a ceremony aboard the Big "E," the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CV-6).

Some 27 months later, on Dec. 19, 1944, Adm. Nimitz would receive a fifth star designating him a Fleet Admiral (FADM). Nimitz would become the last surviving FADM of the four FADMs who were appointed, when he died on Feb. 20, 1966.

And here he was, awarding the MoH to someone who would become the oldest surviving MoH recipient in our nation.

John was to subsequently gain "Mustang" status on becoming a commissioned officer and he would retire from the Navy in September of 1956 with the naval rank of lieutenant, having faithfully served our country as a sailor for more than 30 years.

The group of living MoH recipients that John Finn is the eldest member of is becoming ever smaller and more "exclusive." Why? Two reasons mainly.

There have been far fewer awards of the medal since the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Vietnam in 1973 and, of the seven MoH awards that have been earned since then, all of them have been made posthumously.

Prior to the above stated time, and reckoned from the beginning of WWII, 61.09 percent were awarded posthumously. In combat actions since then, 100 percent have been posthumous awards.

And during the above stated period, the award of the MoH, based on the number of U.S. forces serving in a combative conflict, was 10 times what it's been since then.

As evidence of the shrinking size of living MoH recipients, here are some snapshot samplings:

In 1996, there were 171 living recipients.

In 2002, there were 103 living recipients.

Today, there are 96 still living.

So, the membership of living recipients hasn't gained even one member for any of the country's combat actions that have taken place in more than the 35 years.

On Saturday, June 27, 2009, with slightly less than a month to go to his 100th birthday, John Finn was celebrated and honored at a ceremony held at the La Posta Café on Old Highway 80, just east of his home in Pine Valley. Among the many honors paid to John that day was the dedication of a monument and plaque presented by the John P. Squibob Chapter 1853 of the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus (ECV), the same organization that had presented a plaque to Ramona Town Hall on Saturday, April 25, 2009.

The chapter's Grand Noble Humbug, Paul Ketchem, a Ramonan, officiated at the monument's dedication to Finn. According to Ketchem, including wives and children, there were several dozen of Ramona clammers among some 200 ECV'ers who turned out for the event. And there were others from Ramona who were there who were not connected with the ECV. Julie Lamkin was there with her two children, James, 5, and Rose, 3.

When the day dawns on July 23, John Finn should be experiencing his birthday as a guest of former President George W. Bush and former First Lady Laura Bush. John has been invited to celebrate his becoming a centenarian at the Bushes' ranch in Crawford, Texas.

Here's wishing you, John, many happy returns of the day. And maybe, just maybe, a few more of your fellow Americans who've read this will know who John William Finn is and what he's done.

Thank you, John Finn.

PINE VALLEY, California (CNN) -- Dozens of America's greatest military heroes are gathered in Chicago, Illinois, possibly the last large gathering of living Medal of Honor recipients. Among the men with light blue ribbons holding a star around their necks signifying uncommon bravery, will be John Finn.

Finn, who received the nation's highest medal for valor for his actions during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, turned 100 this summer, the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient.

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Finn was stationed at Kanoeha Bay Naval Air Station, where the Japanese struck five minutes before attacking Pearl Harbor, across southeast Oahu Island from Kanoeha Bay.

Finn recalled how a neighbor was the first to alert him, when she knocked on his door saying, "They want you down at the squadron right away!"

Finn saw the first Japanese plane before his car even reached his hangar. "I put that old car of mine in second gear and wound it up getting down to the hangar where I could be where my guns and ammunition were," Finn said.

One of the first things he did was take control of a machine gun from his squadron's painter. "I said, 'Alex, let me take that gun,'" Finn explained. "I knew that I had more experience firing a machine gun than a painter." "I got that gun and I started shooting at Jap planes," Finn said in the salty language not uncommon among veterans of that long-ago war. But Finn's machine gun was right out in the open, nothing protecting him from the attacking pilots. "I was out there shooting the Jap planes and just every so often I was a target for some," Finn said. "They were Japanese fighter plane pilots. I can remember seeing, in some cases, I could see their faces. He was wounded in the head, the arm, the hand and the foot, but Finn fought on, a one-man counterattack to the surprise air raid that pulled America into World War II.

The Medal's History

The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in the U.S. armed forces. There have been fewer than 3,500 recipients in the medal's 140-year existence. Fewer than 100 recipients are believed to be alive today. Source: Congressional Medal of Honor Society

Finn talked to CNN at his ranch in the desert east of San Diego, California. He surrounds himself with reminders of his life -- his entire life, not just that one infamous day out of 100 years. There are pictures of his wife, Alice, who married him before Pearl Harbor and was by his side until 1998. The hillside outside his home is covered with old cars, old trucks and even an old military ambulance. But the first thing one notices when visiting Finn's ranch is the sign at the road, with a painting of his medal next to his name.

The citation for his Medal of Honor tells that part of his story: "He continued to man this gun and to return the enemy's fire vigorously and with telling effect throughout the enemy strafing and bombing attacks and with complete disregard for his own personal safety. It was only by specific orders that he was persuaded to leave his post to seek medical attention. Following first-aid treatment, although obviously suffering much pain and moving with great difficulty, he returned to the squadron area and actively supervised the rearming of returning planes," the citation stated. With Japanese still attacking, getting his wounds treated wasn't a priority, Finn said. "Medical help comes later. If you're busy shooting a machine gun or a rifle or a pistol or doing anything, you can't worry about getting medical attention," he explained.

Less than a year later, Finn, out of the hospital and recovered from his wounds, was back on duty with the Navy in

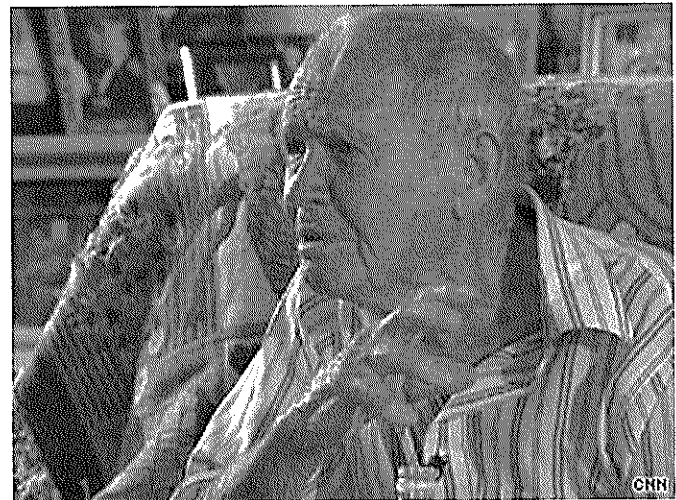
Hawaii. Adm. Chester Nimitz presented Finn with the Medal of Honor for his bravery, joining the ranks of the men, and one woman, recognized with the nation's highest award for heroism.

These days most medals are awarded at the White House, but with the war heating up, such a long trip was out of the question. In fact, his first visit to the White House came in the spring when President Obama invited him for a visit.

Back at his ranch, Finn bristled when asked about being called a "hero." "That damned hero stuff is a bunch of crap, I guess. Well, it is one thing that I think any man that is in that, you gotta be in that position," Finn said. "You gotta understand that there's all kinds of heroes, but they never get a chance to be in a hero's position."

Fewer than 100 men who have received the Medal of Honor are alive today. More than half of them are expected in Chicago this week for the annual Congressional Medal of Honor Society Convention. But because they are all veterans of World War II, Korea or Vietnam, their ranks are shrinking every year.

The men from more recent conflicts, like Somalia, Afghanistan and Iraq, were all awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously. And this week, while many of those living recipients gather in Chicago, Obama will present the latest Medal of Honor at the White House to a soldier who fought and died heroically in Afghanistan.





Chapter 1

The Association of Ordnancemen (AAO) Chapter One, located in Lemoore, California has had a busy and rewarding year. Some of the Chapters most significant highlights since our last report in May 2009 is summarized in this report. This year, Chapter One donated time, money and effort to twelve charities/organizations. The efforts from the Men and Women of Chapter One and the Auxiliary are greatly appreciated. In particular, Chuck and Bev Onken, Rob and Denise Walecki, Carl and Stella Collier, Johnny Wheat, AO1 Garcia, AO1 Franco, CWO4 Tim Nanstiel, Bill Wright, Bill Overby for making this a memorable year.

This year, Chapter One's most successful fundraising effort was our annual Fireworks booth. The profits from this event enabled Chapter One to host a family picnic "free of charge" that was enjoyed by Chapter Members, families and friends. Over 300 people enjoyed each other's company, stories, and fun filled events for the children. Special thanks to ENS (Sel) Brian Garcia, AO1(AW) Franco, AO1(AW) Manko, AO1(AW) Jimenez, AO1(AW) Britton, AO2(AW) Fountain and Bill Wright for making this a great family event.

Chapter One's support during the 2009 Joint NAVY/USMC Ordnance Symposium and AAO Convention was strongly reinforced by members of the Chapter. Many thanks to the members who volunteered their time assisting at the Convention Registration table and the Chapter One's memorabilia sales table. Special thanks are in order for Carl and Stella Collier, Rob and Denise Walecki, Chuck and Beverly Onken.

Once again, Chapter One was excited to support the Lemoore High School 2009 Sober Graduation Party. This was a safe, enjoyable, alcohol and drug free evening for all 2009 Lemoore High School graduates following their ceremony.

Our Chapter has continued efforts to ensure our local community is supported by our AAO members. These events and community support includes; Donations to the Legacy Vietnam Veterans Bike Ride, supporting Local VA Hospitals, donations of toiletry items were made to both the Kings County Women's Shelter and to Individual Augmentee (IA's) members deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan from Naval Air Station Lemoore, CA., donations to the American Legion Post 100 Veterans Memorial structure located in Central Park, Lemoore to Honor all Past and Future Veterans and the Relay For Life®

As we finalize our report for Chapter One, we would like to introduce to you our most current elected officials: LCDR Gerald Gladders (President), ENS (SEL) Brian Garcia

(Vice-President), Bill Overby (Secretary), Johnny Wheat (Treasurer), Rob Walecki (Board of Director) and AO1 Jose Franco (Board of Director).

Gerald W. Gladders
President, Chapter One, Lemoore, CA





Chapter 74

Greetings to all you Ordies out in OrdieLand. The CVN-74/CVW-9 team is back! After an unofficial homeport change to Pearl Harbor Hawaii, the JCS Team put the finishing touches on WESTPAC 2009 with the successful completion of Operation Northern Edge and a fun filled Tiger Cruise (fun for the Tigers anyway).

Since our return to our actual homeport Chapter 74 members spent some much needed time catching up with family; so Chapter 74 was more or less on hiatus for several weeks. That didn't stop us from throwing our Second Annual Chapter 74 Summer Family Picnic BBQ Bash on August 22nd at Trident Lakes on Bangor Sub Base. There was a substantial increase in attendance compared to last year as well as 100% better weather. Many members brought their families and a good time was had by all. We look forward to having an even better time next year.

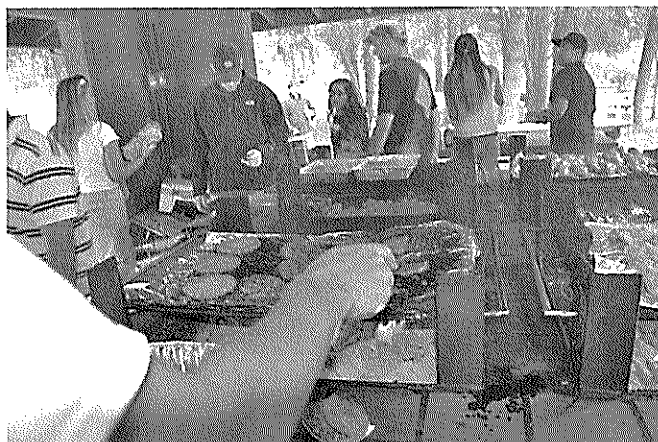
We were able to dispatch a small contingent to the National AAO Convention and Symposium. Chapter 74 was proudly represented by JCS OHO LCDR Greer, our AO of the year nominee AO1(AW/SW) May, and AO1(AW/SW) Eichacher. LCDR Greer was also able to represent the Chapter at John Finn's 100th birthday celebration.

We're proud to say that our own LT Parmley (G-3) was selected for Lieutenant Commander. LCDR (Select) Parmley is now on his way to must deserved shore duty in Norfolk. We will soon be welcoming LT Kessler to the team as his relief. In other good news we're proud to have made two new CPO's this cycle. We would like to congratulate AOC(AW/SW) Sherwin and AOC(AW) Weatherby on their induction to the Chief's Mess. Good job on the well deserved promotion.

In the coming months we expect to be sticking close to the homeport for the most part, so we will be ramping up chapter COMREL activity and continue working on building membership. We have a lot of current Chapter Officers departing, so we look forward to electing new officers. We are also looking for opportunities for some "joint ops" with Chapter 72. Until next time, keep your head on a swivel and always remember our objective: Peace through superior firepower! IYAOYAS!

Respectfully,

CWO4 Eric E. Richmond
President, Chapter 74
eric.richmond@cvn74.navy.mil



Chapter 73

Greetings from the brand new CVN 73/CVW5 team on board USS George Washington! We're excited to finally be established as the Chapter 73 Association of Aviation Ordnancemen. In the summer of 2008 we cross decked approximately 3,000 Sailors from USS Kitty Hawk (CV63) to make us the first ever nuclear powered aircraft carrier in Japan. We are also the first nuclear powered carrier to be

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permanently forward deployed. The pairing of the two crews quickly became one and as always work was done on time and in a professional manner. Our former commanding officer, Admiral J.R. Haley, was quick to approve our request to establish our association onboard.

The results from our first annual elections are as follows: CWO3 Miller (President), LTJG Carter (Vice President), AO3 Chavez (Secretary), AO1 Sepulveda (Treasurer), AO1 Ojeda, AO1 Szczerba, AO2 Odiorne, AO2 Valverde (Board of Directors). Currently our membership stands at 35 personnel and we are pleased to report, still growing.

Our first summer deployment in the Western Pacific has been challenging yet rewarding. After a fun-filled visit to Perth, Australia, the team completed Talisman Saber (TS09). Talisman Saber is a biennial exercise through which Australian and U.S. forces practice interoperability in a variety of mission areas ranging from combat operations to humanitarian assistance. More than 80 tons of ordnance was put on target, on time during TS09 due to the hard work of Sailors from our George Washington Ordnance team in support of Carrier Air Wing Five. This experience allowed GW's Weapons Department an opportunity to integrate its five divisions in order to ensure ordnance worked the first time, every time.

GW then made its first trip to Singapore to enjoy a four day port visit. Then after a short four day cruise we pulled into Manila, Republic of the Philippines – a first in over 13 years. The team participated in a tree planting COMREL at the Bataan Death March memorial. This death march took place on April 9, 1942 when the Philippines were invaded by the Japanese and took 75,000 American and Filipino POW's. It was a rewarding experience, to say the least.

After leaving the Philippines, the team participated in the Indonesian Fleet Review, which included a visit from the Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Gary Roughead Aug. 19th. As we continued on with the end of our deployment GW participated in dual carrier, flex deck operations with USS Nimitz (CVN-68) off the coast of Okinawa. During this time we expended 49 AIM-9X, 16 AIM-9M, 28 AIM-120, 4 AGM-114, and 5 AGM-88.

In the past three months underway, in support of Carrier Air Wing Five, GW Weapons Department has broken out, assembled, and executed the strike up of 2913 tons of Ordnance totaling a value of over \$371 Million Dollars. We are proud to announce that this was accomplished mishap free and on time.

Upon our return to Yokosuka Japan, we welcomed our loved ones on board for GW's Friends and Family Day cruise. We had a good outcome having more than 2,000 attendees onboard just to get a small glimpse of what our

life is like underway We still have many events and plans for our time in port and winter deployment. We are all pleased to finally be established as the Chapter 73 Association of Aviation Ordnancemen.

Be sure to keep on the lookout for our next article where we'll cover an ordnanceman's forward deployed naval life as well as a view on our down time while import Yokosuka, Japan. Until next time, I.Y.A.O.Y.A.S!!!!

Very respectfully,
AO3 Nathan L. Chavez
USS George Washington CVN-73
Secretary, Chapter 73 F.D.N.F.
chavezn@cvn73.navy.mil

Chapter 76

Greetings to all from the CVN76/CVW-14 team. Let me first introduce you to what I have found to be the best group of Weaponeers I have ever had the pleasure of working with. Chapter 76 AAO is comprised of the newly elected President AO1 AW/SW Botting, Vice President AO1 AW/SW Venable, Treasurer AO2 AW/SW Panell, Secretary AO3 AW/SW Sales, and most importantly, all the dedicated members of Chapter 76. Since in the seat and with all the committees in place, the Chapter has predominantly moved forward with Chapter dinners, Ice Cream socials, CVN 76 pizza nights, and most recently, a vigorous COMREL project in Phuket, Thailand. All credit goes to the hard working AOs who know how to do it best uniting and dedicating their time to make this Chapter such a success.

While on the fourth deployment in four years, the team kicked things off right with a Chapter dinner in Dubai. We continued in Phuket, Thailand by hosting a Weapons Dept/ CVW-14 party at Molly Molones and participating in a COMREL project with the Habitat for Humanity Organization where we lent a helping hand building a house from the ground up. Working through the rain and heat did not faze this tireless group. Determined to press through the elements, these AOs truly gave it their all. Digging a six foot ditch for a septic tank and mixing 500 pounds of concrete were just a few of the tasks included in this project. Some AOs even took time to carve IYAOYAS into the drying cement, leaving an everlasting imprint and memory in many minds. Giving back to the community and showing a host nation what we can do is what this Chapter, and all Chapters, are about. After being relieved by our brothers on the USS Nimitz we are looking forward to being back in SAN DIEGO for some long awaited R&R.

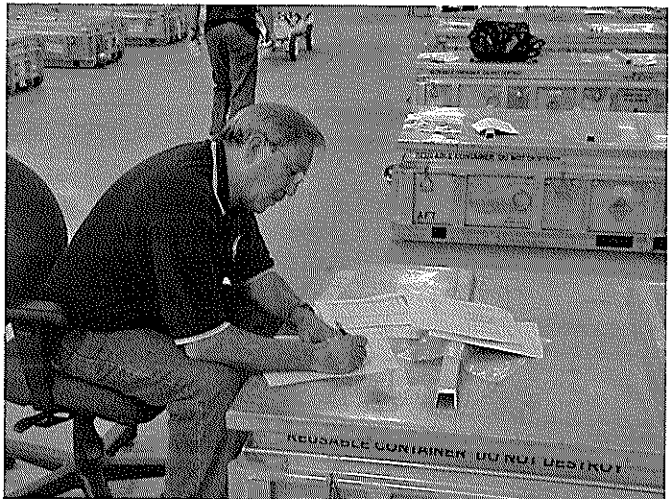
To those who are still in the fight, GIVE'EM HELL and GOD BLESS.
IYAOYAS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Chapter 76 TEAM..... Pics on page 18

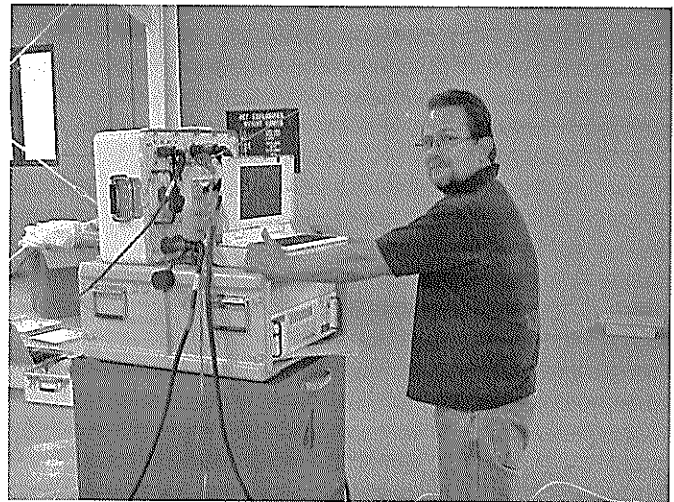


FWST Supports AIM-9X Program Office during Reprogramming Effort

The AIM-9X Sidewinder is a "Smart-Weapon" that requires reprogramming to ensure that the latest tactics, countermeasures and improvements are available to the Fleet. Software changes are delivered to the Fleet by Technical Directive (TD) as an Airborne Software Change (ASC). In order to speed the process of TD incorporation and meet deployment cycles, PMA-259 Air-To-Air Weapons requested the assistance of the Fleet Weapons Support Team (FWST) in the reprogramming of AIM-9X Tactical assets at NWS Earle and NWS Indian Island. Reprogramming at Earle and Indian Island posed a special issue, as there is currently no CMBRE support equipment or ASX power supplies on hand. The AIM-9X Program Office forged a combined team of personnel from the CMBRE Program Office and the FWST to travel to both locations, interfacing with the Naval Weapons Stations in the completion of ASC-6 on all stored AIM-9X assets. The team additionally assisted the Program Office by providing support to the Raytheon depot team who was on hand to complete the rocket motor screw/Control Actuation System AWB-438 inspection for affected assets. During this evolution, cross training was performed between NWS personnel and FWST/CMBRE/Program Office personnel in the performance of Smart Weapons CMBRE reprogramming efforts. The Program Office would like to thank all members of the CMBRE/FWST Team. They were able to provide much needed support in a short turn-time frame to meet deployment cycles. A HUGE Bravo Zulu goes out for the outstanding professional support provided by Nick Cuzzolino and his team at Naval Weapons Stations at Earle New Jersey and Larry Metcalf and his team at Indian Island Washington. Additional thanks goes out to COMNAVAIRLANT for the provision of MHU-191's and ADU-514's in support of this evolution.



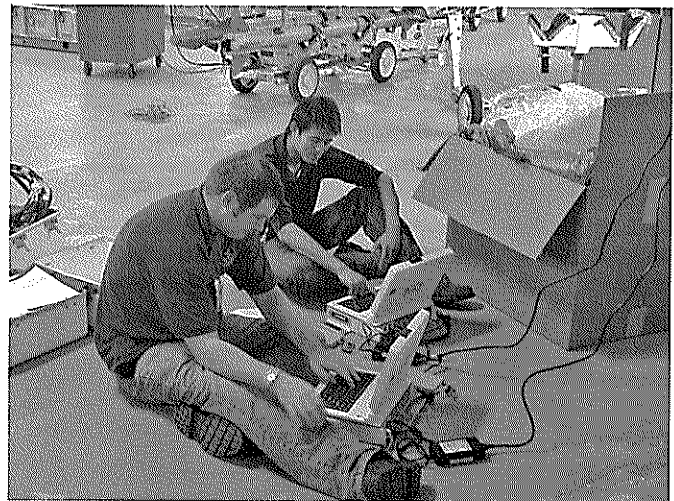
Bill Tarter and Log Book Maintenance



Donnie Wiburn CMBRE 9X Trained



Bill Tarter and Rick



Justin Fox and Rick



IT'S NOT "A" SCHOOL OR AOOCP BUT IT'S A START

I have spent the last year in Baghdad, Iraq on a one year IA. Last issue of the Red Shirt, you were introduced to the Iraqi General's who are responsible for the storage and issue of all ammunition in the Iraqi military. These Iraqi Officer's were experts in ammunition and had over 98 years of experience between them.

Prior to the coalition's ousting of Sadaam Hussein, the Iraqi Army had no training plan of any kind. There were no PQS booklets, no "A" or "C" schools of any kind. There were no Mobile Ordnance Training Teams (MOTT); it was all done by OJT. Iraqi Officers back in the late 1960's through the mid 1980's were educated in the Soviet Union while the enlisted men had no formal training. This was all taking place during the Iran/Iraq War and the fall of the Soviet Union, so training was very limited.

Since the ousting of the former regime in 2003 to present, the United States has had troops on the ground in Iraq. Once the violence was stabilized, the mission of the unit I am assigned to, Multi National Security Transition Command-Iraq (MNSTC-I) in partnership with the Iraqi Government, was to rebuild the military and help establish a de-

mocratic government. As the advisor to Brigadier General Mohammed Ali, Commanding General of Ammunition Command, it was my job to advise on all matters of ammunition management. BG Ali is a very intelligent man who has a vision for how ammunition should be stored and is a strong supporter of training and standardizing ammunition storage at each location within the country.

On his own initiative, BG Ali decided to build a school house at his compound in Baghdad and develop a curriculum, to teach Officers, Warrant Officers and enlisted men assigned to the various storage facilities throughout the country. The primary focus was on weapons handling and safety and the proper procedures for issuing and receiving ammunition. First, we needed to get detailed information on each piece of ordnance in the Iraqi arsenal and spell it out in simple terms for everyone to understand. This was very similar to the AO 3, 2, 1 manual. It was an overview of the various weapons and their function.

Next, we began to focus on the safety aspects of each weapon systems ammunition. Remember that Iraq is not a member of NATO, so they buy ammunition from all over the world from non-NATO countries such as Bulgaria and Serbia. These non-NATO countries are not required to build their ammunition to agreed specifications as NATO countries do, so gathering information and technical data is difficult.

Once that was complete, ammunition storage became the main focus. Iraq has some earth covered barricaded storage facilities but for the most part, large warehouses are what is utilized to store vast amounts of ammunition. There was little-to-no concern for Quantity Distance or compatibilities. Using OP 5 as a basic guide, we developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for each storage location and a general guide to storage of various types of ammunition from small arms 5.56 M-16 machine gun ammo to 120mm mortars and 120mm tank rounds for the new M1A1 tanks sold to the Iraqi Army by the United States. Lightning Protection and electrical grounding are concepts new to the Iraqi Army. Like any large project, you must build a strong foundation before moving forward. Keeping the SOP's and curriculum simple and basic were a must to keep the mentality of crawl before you walk concept. Storage limitations, ammunition compatibility and emergency procedures are the foundation and inventory accuracy, security and professionalism were the next steps to develop. Taking pride in your work and understanding the duty ammunition handlers have and teaching them the vital responsibility placed upon them is fundamental in rebuilding an army and making this army a team functioning together. Once the curriculum was developed, instructors were hand chosen by BG Ali and a classroom had to be built. BG Ali had no facility funding for this school house so he built this school with his own money. He even had his soldiers build the chairs for the students to sit on. Acquiring a damaged trailer, much like the trailers used by FEMA during the Katrina hurricane and began to turn this small trailer into the first Ammunition School House in the history of the Iraqi Army. With a few

(Continued on page 19)



(Continued from page 18)

gallons of paint and a dry eraser board, overhead projector and some help from our friends at General Dynamics, who provided posters of various weapons utilized by the Iraqi Army, this trailer transformed into a functional school house.

In 2009, 4 classes will be taught. To date two of the four have completed. Each class is 45 days long and students are tested weekly with a final exam. Upon graduation, the students with the highest marks are allowed to pick their duty station. This is usually a location close to their home and family. This incentive is established on day one and the competition is fierce to be the very best. The classes consist of up to 25 soldiers per class and classes are broken into groups by pay grade. To date, the average test scores of the first two classes is 92%, which in my opinion is off the charts. These men are so eager to learn and have a great leader to motivate them. BG Ali addresses each class at the beginning and spends time discussing devotion to country, duty and honor and the important of the task given to weapons handlers. He speaks of being a true professional by knowing your weapons systems and safety procedures. He stresses leadership-by- example and demands excellence from his officers, warrant officers and soldiers alike. Upon completion of the final exam, BG Ali addresses the class and provided diplomas and announces who had the highest score.

The Ammunition Command has come a long way over the past few years and it has been an honor and privilege to work with and live next to the Iraqi people. This experience has been a life changing experience for me. I was afforded a wonderful opportunity to come to Iraq and assist in the rebuilding of an Army from the ground up. Humbled by the grace and affection of the Iraqi people, I am overwhelmed in the hospitality and friendship they have shared with me. Brigadier General Mohammad Ali and his team of weaponeers are highly motivated and eager to learn and grow as a command. I will miss them all and hope someday to share my home with General Ali. I will be returning to the states in NOV 09 to see my family and friends for the first time in over a year. I am excited to get back to them but sad to say good bye to my friends and colleagues in Iraq. As a parting gift I presented General Ali a United States Naval Officer's Sword as a show of respect and admiration and wishes him and his family the very best.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SAY A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE PENSACOLA CHAPTER FOR ALL THE SUPPORT IT SHOWED ME WHILE I WAS DEPLOYED TO IRAQ FOR THE LAST YEAR. YOU'RE GIFTS AND ACT OF KINDNESS WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN. YOU ORDIES ARE THE VERY BEST AND I AM PROUD TO BE A MEMBER AND PROUD TO CALL YOU MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS! IYAOYAS!

LT Joe Thompson
US Navy LDO/Assistant Director AOOCP



Iraqi Officers sitting in first Ammunition Class. It is still too dangerous to travel in uniform throughout the country so most wear civilian attire to avoid issues



LT Joe Thompson addresses first Iraqi Army Ammunition Command class with Ammunition Commander, Brigadier General Mohammad Ali



Training Aids on display at first Iraqi Army Ammunition School House



NEW MEMBERS

AO1(AW) Jose R. Morales
 AOACM(AW) Anthony A. Fobbs
 AZ1 Anita Corwin
 AOAN Melissa J. Hassard
 AO2 Shawn C. Locklear
 AO3 Iain G. Tillotson
 AO1 Michael McShane
 AO2 Robert A. Turner
 AOAN Anthony J. Stanford
 AOAN Curtis J. Lane
 AO1 Miquel Barba
 AO3 Steven K. Fine
 CDR Peter J. Bachand
 AO1 Alphonso L. Hicks
 CWO4 Rodney A. Biggs
 AO1 Donald S. Brooks
 AO3 Tonya M. Neal
 AO1 George A. Machado
 AOC Timothy P. Hutchison
 AO2 Chester L. Casabar
 Steve W. Smith
 AOC(AW) Anthony P. Diego
 AOACM(AW/SW) Patrick M. McCollough
 Dean O'Connor
 CWO4 Keith M. Fontano
 AOAN Anthony Jacques
 AO3 Joenel Peredo
 AOAN Maria-Alicia Brewer
 AOAN John P. Morales
 AO3 Paul L. Timmerman
 AOAN Sharda J. Berry
 AO2 Ivory D. Coachman
 AO3 Nathan L. Chavez
 AO2 Jesus Valverde
 AOC Edrick A. Smith
 AO2(AW/SW) Manuel A. Penas
 LCDR Kevin R. Forbes
 AOAA Kelli R. Krause
 AOAN Brook S. Baker
 AOAN Cory A. Hart
 AOAN Charlotte R. Simoni
 AO3 Daniel C. Eve
 AO3 Nicole L. Skowzgard
 AO2 Ryan A. Jagard
 AOC David M. Schlarman
 AOAN Sarah G. French
 AO3 Chad A. Brewington
 AO1 Quincy A. Penne
 AOAN Robert W. Feagan Jr.
 AO1 Jason J. Davis
 AOAA Retai A. Fields
 MSGT David A. Preseau USMC Ret.
 AO1 David E. Long
 AOCS Gregory M. Williams
 Thomas W. Sowell
 AO1 James J. Maccioni USN Ret.
 AOAA Chrystal C. Doonies
 AO1 Christopher J. Morrison
 AOAN Justin R. Cagle
 AO2 Michael A. Hucks
 AO1 Racheal N. Winebar
 AO2 Tyler J. Thomas
 AOC Omar Evans
 CWO4 James M. Zabrosky
 AOC Jason A. Cunningham
 Stephanie S. Tharp
 GYSGT Vanzorro L. Gross USMC Ret.
 AOCS Teny Espinoza
 LT Kelly E. Bishop
 AOAA Zach T. Conkey
 AO3 Charles J. Hesselmann
 AO1 Jayson V. Callorina
 AOAN Ashley A. Hamilton
 AO3 Allan J. Hernandez
 AO1 Maximillian Shell
 AO3 Sefton H. Semple
 AO1(AW/SW) Troy W. McFadden
 AO2 Jonathan S. Diddock
 AOCS Jeffrey A. Harsh
 AO1 Donald M. Childs
 AOAN Brandon T. Starkey
 AOAA Chandler A. Hart
 AOAA Christopher K. Romine
 AOAN Nicole J. Bretag
 AOAN Ruby C. Perez
 AO3 Christopher D. Carter
 AO3 Jami L. Petzolt
 AO2 Daniel R. Cooper
 AO1 Robert A. Jordan
 AOAN Stephanie R. Griffin
 AO1 Christopher W. Pike
 AOAN Tashina M. Azure
 AOC Steven M. Leist
 AOAA Sara M. Bowman
 AOAN David P. Barnett
 CDR Heriberto Gonzalez
 AO1 Nathan K. Mastin
 AO3 Melinda H. Huntoon
 AO1 Jamie A. Eichacker
 AO3 David J. Kopp
 AOAN Stephen D. Goode
 AO2 Luis P. SoliverasValentin
 AOAN Christopher R. Madsen
 CMSGT Kevin E. Fallen
 AOCS Robin K. Sherman USN Ret.
 AO2 Julian K. Hodges
 AO(AW) Ricardo Rodriguez
 AO1 Carl A. Tyler
 AOC Randy P. Holder USN Ret.
 Kim A. Sibrel
 AOCS Steven D. Greselin
 AO1(AW) Russell E. German
 AOC Michael J. Daly
 AOAN Tyre S. Davis
 AO3 Ruben Nunez
 AO1(AW/SW) Jeffrey A. Noack
 AOAN Rondell N. Marino
 AO3 Herman C. Lewis
 AOC Troy D. Graham
 AO2 Joshua D. Walsh
 AOAA Billy J. Douglass
 AO2 Trenton J. Hagley
 AOACM Paul T. Snead
 CWO3 William F. Pilkington USN Ret.
 AO1 Rollie C. Sturdavant
 AOAA Thomas L. Curley
 AOAA Robert M. Medina
 AOAN Kevin P. Bartshe
 AOAN Benn J. McCurry
 AOAN Stephanie E. Vaughan
 AO3 Sean M. O'Hara
 AO3 Rufena D. Thompson
 AO1(AW) Sean P. Daly
 TM1 Tracey L. Lynch
 CDR Thomas W. Armstrong
 AO1(AW/SW) Jeffery K. Crawford
 AO3 Roger C. McFann
 AO3 Russell A. Stephenson
 AOAN Whitney P. Francis
 AOC(AW/SW) Willie L. Johnson
 AOCS Michael J. Mooney USN Ret.
 AOAA Aaron R. Clark
 AOAN David J. Smith
 AO1(AW) Travis R. Overlie
 AOAN Whitney E. Dunning
 AOAN Jodie C. Craig
 AOC Keith A. Toy
 AOC Michelle M. Hucks
 AO1 Henry D. Stuart
 AO2 Chris M. Vancil
 LT James C. Fish
 LCDR Paul A. Dozen
 AO1 Timothy N. Hixson
 AOC Stanley E. Smith
 LTJG Roderigus C. Anderson
 LT Clad A. Hollinger
 Troy V. Cornett
 AO3 Nicholas Digeronino
 AOAN Joshua Sanchez
 AO3 Artur Polocki
 AOAN Josh R. Denault
 AOAN Devon M. Vanderbush
 AO2 Emnoel L. Agas
 AO3 Michael L. Peace
 AOACM Gary L. Dryer USN Ret.
 AO3 Jeffery A. Evans
 AO1 Timothy J. Hernandez
 AO3 Marcel D. Gillespie
 AO1 Travis R. Steele
 AO1(AW) James P. Natal
 AOAA Tiffany J. Hicks
 AOAA Jarred L. Whited
 AOAN Grant A. Grilo
 AOAN Leslie J. Reynolds
 AO3 Daisy M. Estevez
 AO3 Kristen D. Sales
 AO2 David Morales

SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTORS

The Association
 The Auxillary
 CWO5 Donald & Adelia Edgington
 AOACM Donald & Elisa Shirley USN Ret.
 CWO4 Robert & Kathy Petrus USN Ret.
 CWO4 Frank & Naia Williams USN Ret.
 CWO4 Harold & Shirley Henson USN Ret.
 Capt Tommy & Gay Wimberly USN Ret.
 AO2(AW/SW) Heather R. Grosso-Payne
 AO2 George & Julie Grundy
 Rick Nelson
 AOC Rick & Gracie Baxla USN Ret.
 Talton & Janeva Gilbert
 AOACM Donald & Thelma Sanders USN Ret.
 AO1(AW) Cameron & Jan Sparks
 AOACM Richard & Linda Hastings USN Ret.
 John & Patricia Martin
 Robert & Denise Tom
 Kristen V. Stith
 CDR Charles 'John' & Carolyn Evans USN Ret.
 LCDR Edward & Ann Budway USN Ret.
 Ronald & Cindy Brightman
 AO1 John & Debra Aswegan USN Ret.
 Bruce A. Kaiser
 Robert & Adrienne Bailey
 AOC Thomas & Brenda Richards USN Ret.
 AO(AW/SW) Christopher & Shawna Hathaway
 CDR Hal & Grace Halenza USN Ret.
 Gary & Shannon Mullins
 Ed & Linda Scott
 Linda Pendleton
 Jim Thomas
 Marlys Flores
 Mike Price
 Stephen Gahr
 Tim Nunstiel

Raytheon
 Northrop/Grumman
 Chapter 1
 Chapter 3
 Chapter 4
 Chapter 5
 Chapter 8
 Chapter 9
 Chapter 22
 Chapter 39
 Chapter 74
 Pensacola Chapter
 Desert Southwest Chapter
 Key West Chapter
 Linda Poutree
 Buford Cline
 Betty Black
 Patsy Stokes
 Sylvia Ashlock
 Rosemary Laur
 Betty Clark
 Elaine Southerland
 Linda Robinson
 Dee Dee Harman
 Thomas & Janet Sawyer
 Frank & Donna Parker
 Tom & Ann Robins
 Chuck & Bev Onken
 Bob Jackson
 Rod McDonald
 Eric McWright
 Shannon Mullins
 Norman D. Gebert
 Jeffrey Coe
 Bill Bindle
 Dion J. Edon

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

AVCM Armando W. Notarangelo USN Ret.
 MSGT David A. Preseau USMC Ret.
 CWO4 Rodney A. Biggs
 LT James C. Fish
 AO1 Travis R. SteelePatrick R. Ellis
 Thomas W. Sowell
 AOC Kevin P. Meagher USN Ret.
 CWO3 William F. Pilkington USN Ret.
 LT Ernest Branigh USN Ret. PLANKOWNER
 AO1 Ronald W. Lee
 AO1 Jamie A. Eichacker
 AO1(AW) Justin L. Darnell
 AO3 Tracy L. Forehand
 AOC Jack W. McMains USN Ret.
 AO1 Michael E. Evans USN Ret.
 AO3 George E. Zatopek III

LOCATOR

Can you help?.....Know where any of these members can be located? If so please contact me at aaot-reas@cox.net, snail mail or give me a call.

AO3(AW) Gerry L. Bishop
 LT Joseph L. Thompson
 AO2 Ecuingari C. Licea
 AO3 Thomas A. Frantz
 AOAN Abraham D. Demotta
 AO2 Richard Carey
 GYSGT Robert E. Houston USMC Ret.
 AO2 Christopher J. Morgan
 AO1 Larry Courson
 AO3 Violeta Garcia
 AO2 Edmond L. Grecne
 AO2 Justin A. Roach
 AO3 Kody F. Yengich
 AOC Dewayne A. Brunson
 AO3 Matthew M. Schneider
 AO3 Kenneth R. Downs
 AO3 John P. Lewis
 AO1 Charles A. Dukes
 AO(AW) Tim P. Church
 AO1 Charles A. Dukes
 AO3 Kaya M. Schlabach
 AOAN Stephanie A. Peterson



**ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION
ORDNANCEMEN
2009 GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
MINUTES**

David Lepard, President, called the 2009 Association of Aviation Ordnancemen General Business Meeting to order at 0803, 15 August 2009, at the Silver Legacy Resort, Reno NV. He then led the General Membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and played the National Anthem and the Ordie song.

Mart Vance, Chaplain, gave the opening prayer.

The business of the Association was then initiated.

There were 72 **Members present** for the Business Meeting. The Registration list is Enclosure (1) to these minutes.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The President reminded everyone in attendance to fill out a General Business Meeting Registration card.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

In accordance with ARTICLE VII, Section 2 to the By-Laws the privilege of nominating, making motions, debating and voting is reserved for Regular Members of the Association during the course of this meeting.

Under Roberts Rules Article 31, when we get to the elections the President will, after giving ample opportunity to make nominations from the floor, with no further nominations coming, close the nominations. A motion to close nominations will not be in order.

REPORT ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTIONS DURING THE COURSE OF THE YEAR:

- a. Approved the FY 2009-2010 Budget.
- b. Approved a \$250 Donation to the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation.
- c. Approved the 2008 Board of Directors Minutes
- d. Approved Life Membership for Kevin Meagher
- e. Approved Establishment of Chapter 77
- f. Approved Establishment of Chapter 71

Dennis Costa, Secretary, reported that the minutes of the 2008 General Business Meeting was published in Red Shirt #107 with additional copies being available in the rear of the room. A synopsis of the minutes were given after which

the President called for any required corrections or deletions. A motion was made and seconded to accept the 2008 General Business Meeting Minutes as published. Without objection the motion was passed. The 2008 General Business Minutes are enclosure (2) to these minutes.

The Treasurer then gave the Financial Report. Copies of the 2009/2010 Approved Budget and 2008/2009 Expenditure Report are available in the rear of the room. Any questions please feel free to ask. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Financial Report as delivered. Without objection the motion was passed. The 2009/2010 approved Budget is enclosure (3) to these minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2009 Convention Committee, Joe Manley –

As the site Chairman of the 2009 Convention we are having another great success with the help and outstanding hard work of JJ LaMaitre, Dennis Costa, AOI Tim Hixson, Chapter 21 President and his crew of Chapter 21 members. I would also like to thank Chuck Onken for all his help and hard work before, during and after each year's convention. Without his help the conventions would not run as well as they do. Lastly I want to thank the ever hard working, never seems to run out of energy, Jim and Carolyn Thomas. We have a total of 459 registered guests from 09-10-09 thru 09-16-09 at Silver Legacy. We also have 220 attending the social and 213 attending the Awards dinner. We have a number of exhibitors along with Chapters selling their chapter goodies in the exhibitor's room.

**2010 Convention Committee, Joe Manley Co-Site
Chairman –**

The Symposium & Convention will be held at the Silver Legacy, Reno, NV from 9-15 August 2010. Get your reservation in early. This will help get more active duty people to your convention. The Convention Committee has been looking at future sites and location for 2013 and forward conventions.

Membership Committee, Joe Manley Chairman –

The membership figures are available in the rear of the room. Good news, the active membership numbers are on the rise. Another bright spot is that the number of life members is going up. The following figures were presented:

	<u>20 June 2008</u>	<u>20 June 2009</u>
Dues Current	1015	903
Life	726	741
Honorary	106	116
1Yr Grace Period	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1847	1760

Address Unknown (these Numbers are included in the above figures) 1301 1339
Inactive Members 4913 4948

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AO of the Year Committee, Al Ten Eyck Chairman –
The committee considered 63 packages. He thanked all 20 members of the committee by name. The committee consisted of 14 active duty, 6 retired and members of both the Navy and Marine Corps. They totaled 397 years of ordnance experience. We need to get the word out to the Commands that this award is the way we recognize our very best. Packages showing up late, we need to have them in sooner to ensure they are recognized. The winner's were announced at the Awards Banquet and are presented here for the record

**ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION
ORDNANCEMEN
JOHN W. FINN
AVIATION ORDNANCEMAN OF THE YEAR
FOR 2009**

AO1 (AW/SW) WILLIAM B. STANTON

**ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION
ORDNANCEMEN
JOHN W. FINN
AVIATION ORDNANCEMAN OF THE YEAR
FOR 2009
Runner-Up**

AO1 (AW) DANIEL J. PRATT

AO Hall of Fame Committee, Chuck Onken Chairman –
There were TWO packages up for consideration. The committee represented over 197 years of ordnance experience.

**ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION
ORDNANCEMEN
AO HALL OF FAME SELECTEE FOR 2008**

LCDR CHARLES COLE USN (RET)

CWO4 EDWARD C. SCOTT USN (RET)

Reunion Book Committee, Chuck Onken –
The reunion book is alive and well, it continues to pay for itself. Beverly Onken has done a great job with AAO REUNION BOOK Editor. He requested that everyone get their pictures taken and he reminded all that you do not have to buy a book to get your pictures taken. If you have any pictures that you wish to be included please mail them to Chuck Onken at 291 W Spruce Place, Lemoore Ca 93245-1970.

Nomination Committee, Joe Manley Chairman –
The offices up for election are President (David Lepard), and 2 Members of the Board of Directors (Brenda Cotter

and Rick Garza). The following individuals were nominated for the Offices: Dave Lepard, Capt, USN: For President, Gerald W. Gladders, LCDR USN: For Board of Directors, Kevin Dowd, LCDR, USN: For Board of Directors. If no one is nominated from the floor the offices will be filled by voice vote.

NOTE: Article V (5) Section 3 states that "A minimum of two officers must be active duty personnel, one of which must be on the Board of Directors." There is one By-Laws Change to be voted on this year; The proposed change is to bring our current By-Laws in line with the already approved standardized Chapter By-Laws; which allows the chapters to allow and (the) Auxiliary to the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen (AAAO) to be able to vote at the chapter level only. A motion was made for the following national By-Laws to change to read:

The By-Laws change to read:

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 5: Auxiliary members are allowed to vote at the Chapter level only.

The following offices will open for election/reelection at the 2010 Convention.

Vice President currently Joe Manley, LCDR, USN, Retired
Secretary currently Dennis Costa, AOACM, USN, Retired

Board of Directors (Two) currently:
Michael Price, Capt, USN
Chuck Onken, LCDR, USN, Retired

Absentee voting status – Joe Manley-

Total Ballots Received: 21. Unless there are nominations from the floor for President or either of the two Board of Directors a voice vote for that office will be taken. If a ballot vote is required it will be conducted using ballots that the Secretary has made up. The ballots were handed out as the Members check in for the General Business meeting and their membership dues were verified to be current. I will go over the voting procedures prior to the voting and again before each vote is taken.

By-Laws Committee, Jeff Sassone Chairman –

The Committee serves as the Bylaws Committee for both the Association and the Foundation. During this past year we have completed work on the following

1. Review and approved By-laws for Chapter 71 / 77
2. Working on By-laws for Chapters 3, 22 and 4

We are currently working with Chapters 8 and 9 on revising their Bylaws to meet the format and requirements contained in the Standardized Chapter Bylaws Template.

Safety Committee, James Irwin–

He gave an informative Power Point brief on safety related

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items that we use in our everyday lives.

Combined Federal Campaign Committee, Joe Manley –
As the Chairman of the CFC I'm happy to report that because we were accepted into the 2008 Combined Federal Campaign that so far the Education Foundation has received as of 08-03-2009 \$14,246.00 in donation to the scholarship fund. The Education Foundation has also received information that obligated funds of \$15,705.00 will be received by March of 2010. This was only possible by members of the Association and non members Ordies generous donation to the Education Foundation. This is indeed a great moment completing many years of effort by few members to finally gain admittance and to have our name listed under "National/International Independent Organizations". Thanks to one and all for your efforts and support! Special THANKS goes out to Dick Grass and Ed Scott for all their help they provided me with information to use in the submission of the Association annual application. As you may have noticed I said annual submission.

This year we were not successful in our application for acceptance to participate in the 2009 Combine Federal Campaign. We were denied because of a deficiency in our Attachment A that requires that our organization provides or conducted real services, benefits, assistance, or program activities in 15 or more different states or a foreign country over the three-year period immediately proceeding January 2009. We appealed their denial and were again turned down for acceptance. Although our application for 2009 mirrored the 2008 application we will be reviewing the requirements again this year and hopefully find a way to meet the requirements of Attachment A. Work has already stated on finding the right elements to put in Attachment A to meet their requirements for the 2010 application.

AO Museum Committee, Tim Carroll –

There are some issues with the executive leadership at the Museum with regards to the Association assets, but with the help of VADM Bowman we think we can resolve this issue. Capt Lepard will be traveling to Pensacola to meet with Mr. Macon to re-start the process.

Educational Foundation President – Ed Scott

During this year your Foundation continues to remain extremely active in all matters. With the end of FY 2008-2009 bestows the normal flurry of administrative requirements derived to determine the health of our Foundation both administratively and financially. In house reviews are required as well as reviews by outside agencies. We look forward to these reviews since we believe that they are tools that help us learn and improve.

As I look over the reports from FY 2008-2009 reviews I found that your Foundation was sound both administratively and financially; however there was room for improvement in both areas. In the administrative area responsibility for

updating and changing all our documents rested with one or two individuals, we have now assigned one or two documents to each Officer who is responsible for keeping them current. In the financial area we looked hard at the method used to calculate raises in scholarship amounts and also in their numbers. There was a complex formula to determine if raises could be made and still remain with the requirements in the Bylaws Article IX, Section 3. It was felt that tying raises to a percentage of interest earned would allow for more timely raises while still meeting the requirements; even in these rough economic times. These two changes will serve to make us even stronger.

We also found that there was an IRS rule that prevents the Officers of the Foundation from sponsoring or applying for a scholarship while in office and for five years there after; referred to "**Disqualified Person**" in numerous IRS directives. Upon learning of the problem we changed the Bylaws and the scholarship eligibility requirements. This also creates problems to volunteers, elections and to serve on the Foundation in all capacities; each faces an 8 year restriction; 3 office term + 5 there after term. Those who do serve do so with knowledge of this restriction and without pay. My hats off to each and every one who has or now serve on your Foundation.

Individual, Chapter, Auxiliary, CFC, and Corporate contributions were up and we thank you for your continued support. We welcome our new corporate player The PDI Group, thanks for your contribution and we hope to have you onboard for many years to come. No matter where you fall in these contributors you are important to us for without your support we would have been unable to continue to award scholarships. This past year at this convention we awarded 4 Robert L. Crow scholarships, 3 @ 3,500 and 1 @ 1,500; we also awarded a \$3,500 Northrop/Grumman scholarship and 4 Raytheon scholarships at \$1,000 each. Did you notice the addition of the \$1,500 Robert L. Crow Scholarship? We have not rested on the past performance and "status quo" this year due to CFC Campaign 2008 funding received we have budgeted and approved 3 @3,750, 1 @ 1,750 and 5 @1,500; we also expect to award a \$3,500 Northrop/Grumman Shipbuilding Division, Newport News scholarship and 4 Raytheon scholarships (14). In total scholarship award dollars available this year is \$20,500 in Robert L. Crow and \$7,500 in the name of corporate to 17 applicants that your scholarship committee will select. Did you again notice the additional Robert L. Crow Scholarships?

This year was our first experience as a receiver of CFC funds. As of May 31, 2009 we have received \$10,296 with around \$19,900 due by March 2010; the Foundation Treasurer will provide more information. All of this is from the 2008 CFC Campaign. We thank everyone who contributed to us through the 2008 CFC campaign. CFC is a yearly campaign and each year you must apply to be part of it. There is NO guarantee that you will be in year after year. I

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(Continued from page 23)

will say that we have submitted our application for the 2009 campaign and others will speak toward this.

As we move on to this year we pledge that our efforts will be directed towards increasing our financial wealth while taking care of the educational needs to those we serve. Thank you all for allowing us to serve in our capacities. Dick Grass; Foundation Treasurer, shall speak to the Foundation financial matters and audits and Rick Garza; Scholarship Selection Committee Chairman, shall speak on this years selection.

**ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION
ORDNANCEMEN
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
ROBERT L. CROW \$3,750.00 SCHOLARSHIP
WINNERS FOR 2009**

Emily Gladders, Daughter of Gerald Gladders
Megan Harman, Daughter of James Harman
Hillary Robins, Grand Daughter of Tom Robins

**ROBERT L. CROW
\$1,750.00 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

Danielle Manley, Granddaughter of Larry Manley

**ROBERT L. CROW
\$1,500.00 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

Justine Crutchfield, Daughter of David Houck
Katelyn J. Harvey, Granddaughter of John Kevin
Jennifer Parmley, Daughter of Jason Parmley
Karl Swygert, Son of Stewart Swygert
John Wiley, Grandson of Everett Ferrell

**NORTHROP GRUMMAN
\$3,500.00 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

Audra Parmley, Daughter of Jason Parmley

**RAYTHOEN MISSILE SYSTEM
\$1,000.00 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

Jonathan King, Son of John King
Katrina Nelson, Granddaughter of George Adams
Chelsea Stratmeyer, Daughter of Richard Stratmeyer
Adam Swygert, Son of Stewart Swygert
Newsletter Report, Dave Lepard –

The RED SHIRT is becoming a real top-notch newsletter as noted by the National Officers. The National membership gave a round of applause to Kevin for the job he has done. We are beginning to step up our publication from a newslet-

ter to a magazine with full-page color sheets. Any ideas, pictures, questions please send them to Kevin for inclusion to the next newsletter. He reminded all concern that Kevin needs to keep the deadline for all articles.

AAO Website Report, Chuck Onken–

The Website is up and running with little or no problems at all. The cost has increased slightly about 239.40 a year to run. All the forms for the AAOY, Scholarship, and HOF are available on the website. Any problems feel free to contact Johnny Wheat.

Chaplin Report – Mart Vance –

Eighteen members passed, Four Spouses passed. Sympathy cards and letters of condolence were sent in all cases where there was sufficient information available. 12 honorary packages were either sent or delivered. 19 Cards and letters were sent.

CHAPTER REPORTS

There are presently 23 active Chapters.

Chapter 1	NAS Lemoore, CA.	Gerald Gladders
Chapter 3	NAS Whidbey Island, WA.	James Irwin
Chapter 4	Tidewater Area, VA.	James Perry
Chapter 5	China Lake, CA.	No Report
Chapter 7	Pt. Mugu, CA.	No Report
Chapter 8	San Diego, CA.	Al Ten Eyck
Chapter 9	Jacksonville, FL.	Ed Scott
Chapter 11	Kaneohe Bay, HI	No Report
Chapter 21	NAS Fallon, NV.	Tim Hixson
Chapter 22	Patuxent River, MD	Bill Bindel
Chapter 39	Beaufort S.C	No Report
Chapter 65	USS Enterprise CVN 65	No Report
Chapter 68	USS Nimitz CVN 68	Deployed
Chapter 71	USS Roosevelt	No Report
Chapter 70	USS Carl Vinson CVN 70	No Report
Chapter 72	USS Lincoln CVN 72	Kenneth Davis
Chapter 74	USS Stennis CVN 74	Jason May
Chapter 75	USS Truman CVN 75	Rod Ledger
Chapter 76	USS Ronald Reagan CVN 76	Deployed
Chapter 77	USS George Bush CVN 77	Mike Price
CVW 5	CVW 5	Deployed
Chapter 34	Pensacola, FL.	Cory Wainscott
Desert/Southwest Chapter	El Centro, CA.	No Report
Key West	Key West	Ryan Smith
Auxiliary		Delores Manley

The Chapter reports are Enclosure (4) to these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Chapter 34 Name Change – Tim Carroll

A slide presentation was given to the members showing

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(Continued from page 24)

member of the Pensacola Chapter had been onboard CVA-34. It was requested to change the name of the Chapter from the Pensacola Chapter to Chapter 34. The Association Board of Directors discussed, a motion was made and carried unanimously to change the name to Chapter 34.

2010 Convention Committee, Jim Thomas Co-Site Chairman

The Symposium & Convention will be held at the Silver Legacy, Reno, NV from 9 - 15 August 2010. More to follow in the Red Shirt newsletter. Rates will be \$79.00 (Sun-Thu) and \$97.00 (Fri & Sat). The Mid-Year planning conference will be held in Laughlin NV from 15-20 January 2010. Check the Red Shirt for details.

Election of Officers –

The President called for the election of Association Officers. He announced that the offices open for election are two seats on the Board of Directors and President.

Election was held for the office of President, position held by David Lepard.

The Nominees are

David Lepard
Mike Price

David Lepard was re-elected to serve as President, term to expire 2012

Election was held for the Board of Directors position held by Rick Garza.

The nominees were:

Rick Garza
Gerald Gladders
Kevin Dowd

Rick Garza was re-elected to serve as Board of Directors, term to expire 2012

Election was held for the Board of Directors position held by Brenda Cotter.

The nominees were:

Brenda Cotter
Gerald Gladders
Kevin Dowd

Gerald Gladder was elected to serve on the Board of Directors, term to expire 2012.

Contributions to AAOEF Scholarship Fund received during convention:

Raytheon \$4,000.00	Northrop/Grumman \$3,500.00
Chapter 1 \$200.00	Chapter 3 \$400.00
Chapter 4 \$600.00	Chapter 5 \$200.00
Chapter 8 \$500.00	Chapter 9 \$1,000.00
Chapter 22 \$300.00	Chapter 39 \$1,500.00
Chapter 74 \$400.00	Pensacola Chapter \$1,500.00
Bob Jackson \$200.00	
Rod McDonald \$100.00	
Tom & Ann Robins \$550.00	
Chuck & Bev Onken \$200.00	
Shannon & Gary Mullins \$1,000.00	
The Auxiliary \$10,016.00	

Total donations \$26,166.00

The President announced that next year's Symposium & Convention will be held at the Silver Legacy, Reno, NV from 9 - 15 August 2010. Pre-registration will be a real key for the success of all the planned activities at this convention. The 2010 convention Site Chairman is Joe Manley.

The President called for any more input from the floor.

A moment of silence was held for Melissa Thornton, Daris Long, Bobby Jackson, Roy Newcomb and Marion Nelson other who gone to the Gun Boss in the sky. Let's think about the Marines, Sailors and Solider serving in Iraq, Afghanistan

Mart Vance delivered the closing prayer.

There being no more input from the floor and no more business to conduct the President closed the 2009 General Business Meeting of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen at 1242, 15 August 2009.

Enclosures 2 thru 4 are on file with the National Secretary.

Submitted By:

Approved By:

Dennis Costa
Secretary

David H. Lepard
President

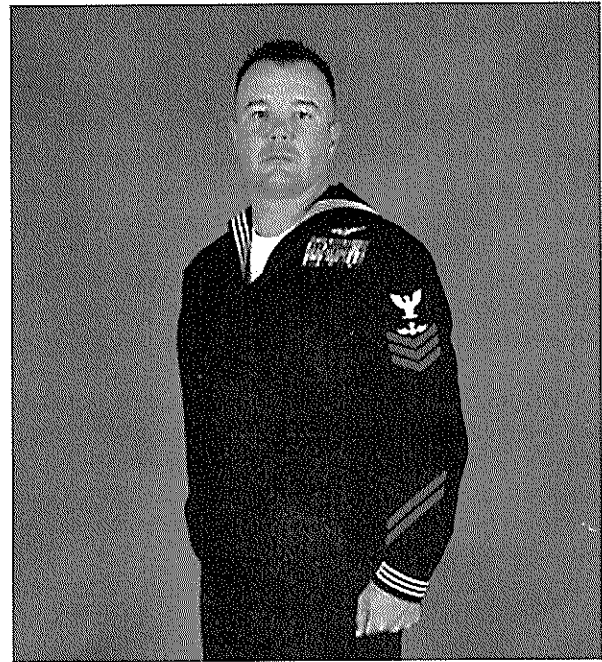




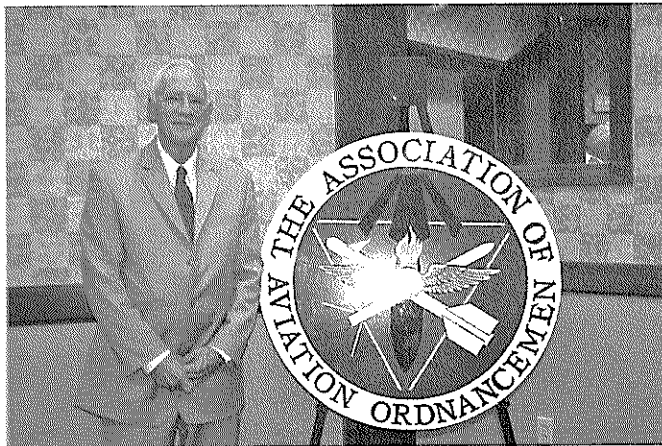
*2009 Aviation Ordnanceman
Of The Year
AO1 (AW/SW) WILLIAM B. STANTON*



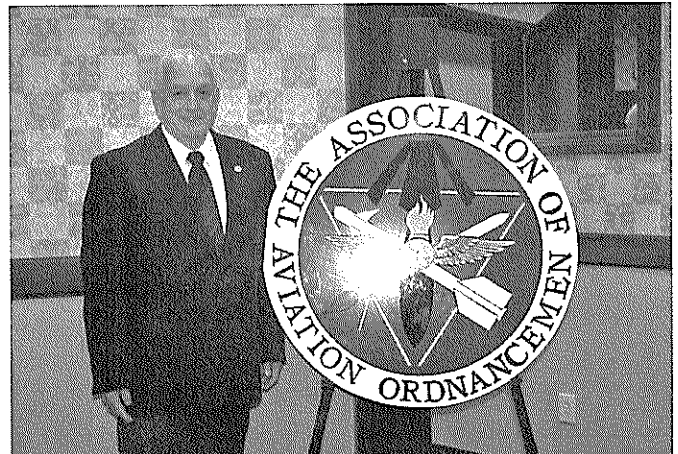
*2009 Aviation Ordnanceman
Of The Year Runner Up
AO1 (AW) DANIEL J. PRATT*



*2009
Association of Aviation
Ordnanceman
Hall Of Fame*



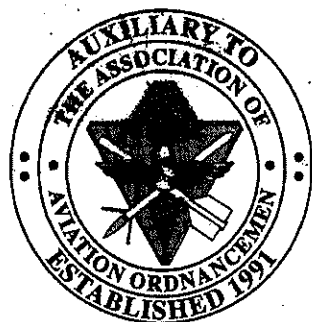
CWO4 EDWARD C. SCOTT USN (RET)



LCDR CHARLES COLE USN (RET)



Auxiliary To The Association Of Aviation Ordnancemen



As the new Auxiliary President, we'll start with first things first. **Thank you** to the Auxiliary members for entrusting me to take them forward. With your assistance, we'll make the next three years entertaining and rewarding for all. For those of you who do not know me,

I am the wife of Kenny Clasen, AOCs RET. We live in Fallon, Nevada and both of us love the sound of those jets overhead. I won't bore you with my resume', let's just say my goal is to have lots of fun for the next three years raising bunches of money for The Scholarship Fund.

The Auxiliary is happy to welcome eight new **General Members**. **Julie Hixson, Carolyn Lanker, Andrea Longoria, Linda Pendleton, Linda Mendoza, Jennifer Tuggle, Deana Hinnant, and Jessica Wellington.**

Our recent **Lifetime Members** are: **Thelma Thill, Marge Barnes and Ann Gramolini.**

Earning their 5 year pins are: **Sylvia Ashlock, Julie Brado, Abby Chavez, David Ecker, Rita Garza, Julie Gore, Penny Hannifan, Jan Jones, Lelani Kubik, Pat Lepard, Shannon Mullins, Vicki Peters, Teresa Raley and Laura Richardson.**

Congratulations to you all and thank you for your unwavering support!

The Symposium and Convention was a great success. We certainly enjoyed the camaraderie with friends, old and new. So many people donated items for the **general raffle** which raised \$981, the **USS Gerald Ford hat raffle** - \$260 and the **auction** bringing in \$8,550. There were a lot of marvelous items up for bid and we thank all the donors and bidders for supporting this so very important event. **Memorabilia and individual donations** to scholarships amounted to \$225. All in all, an astounding total of \$10,016 was generously given for the Scholarship fund. **Thank you all** - we could not have accomplished this without you.

Scholarship Donations: *Sylvia Ashlock, Betty Clark, Rosemary Laur, Linda Robinson, Elaine Southerland and Patsy Stokes.*

Our convention helps Betty Clark, Maria Comes, Mar-

leen Grass, Carolyn Lanker, Pat Lepard, Cyndy Sassone, Linda Scott, Susette Sylvester-Ecker were real champs for pitching in where ever they were needed.

The **Taste of Home Coin Challenge** was fun, raising \$453 for Taste of Home. Once again, the AO's beat the Auxiliary - but wait until next year! Save your pennies and coins, or purchase them at the cashier cage at the casino! A huge thanks to the patient casino cashiers for making our counting job so much easier this year.

Taste of Home Donations: *Sylvia Ashlock, Chapter 9, Betty Clark, Julie Clayton, Ann Robins, Tom & Janet Sawyer, Elaine Southerland, Patsy Stokes and an astounding number of people dropping in those coins!*

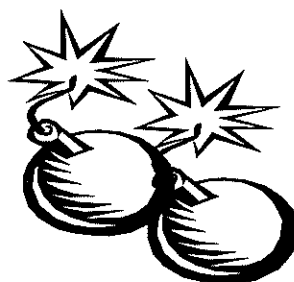
Want to be a part of the scholarship program? You can send donations to the Auxiliary Treasurer, Carolyn Thomas. Make checks payable to **AAAO** and mail to 1394 Lilac Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91911.

Special thanks go out to **Carolyn Thomas** for her unflinching attention to all the details of registration, luncheon, and making things run so smoothly. We have only one question Carolyn, when did you find time to sleep?

For our out-going Auxiliary President, **Delores Manley:** **Thank you** for your great example of leadership for the last three years. It was apparent in every action you performed, you had the good of the organization in mind. Again, thank you! ... for your hard work and keeping us focused toward the important goals of our organization. We wish you and Joe lots of fun in your 'retirement'.

Until next time, **Remember.....We Do Make A Difference!!**

WE SUPPORT THE ARMS OF THE FLEET!
Janice Clasen - AAAO President





Association Of Aviation Ordnancemen Educational Foundation



Final GI Bill family transfer rules unveiled.

Service members can register to transfer their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to family members beginning June 29, the Pentagon announced Tuesday. The program represents both the most significant expansion of

education benefits since they were first offered after World War II and, for service members with families, the most significant retention bonus offered since the start of the all-volunteer force. Most users will earn benefits payments spread over 36 months that will total between \$75,000 and \$90,000, the Pentagon estimates.

On June 29, a special Pentagon Web site will go live, allowing service members to securely apply to allow their immediate family members to share in their education benefits beginning Aug. 1, according to Bob Clark, the Defense Department's assistant accession policy director and the top official working on the new benefits plan. Service members who plan to use at least part of their benefit in the near future should first register through the Department of Veterans Affairs GI Bill Web site, Clark said. But those who do not plan to use their benefits anytime soon, or not at all, do not have to register with VA to apply for the family member benefit; they can simply register through the Pentagon site that will become active June 29.

Service members have up to 15 years from the time they leave the service to apply through VA for a Certificate of Eligibility, Clark said. Clark emphasized that service members must be on active duty or in the Selected Reserve on Aug. 1 to be eligible for family transfer rights. "Those who have retired, even if their last day on active duty was July 31st or anytime before that, or have separated or are in the IRR (Individual Ready Reserve) are not eligible for the transferability," he said. He noted that transferability was established "for the specific purpose of recruitment and retention of a career force." "Transferability of GI Bill benefits is the most requested initiative we receive from our ser-

(Continued on page 29)

Note:

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(Continued from page 28)

vice members, and we believe it will assist us in retaining highly qualified military personnel," said Bill Carr, deputy undersecretary of defense for military personnel.

Service members will apply beginning June 29 through the transferability of Educational Benefits (TEB) website, which will be located at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/>. Service members will be able to securely access this site with their Common Access Card, a Defense Department Self Service User ID or a Defense Finance and Accounting Service PIN number, the Pentagon said. Clark asked that service members whose family members do not plan to take classes this fall to delay their registration by a couple of weeks - until at least July 15 - to allow those who do plan to do so to get through the registration process. The effective date will be Aug. 1 for all applicants, regardless of their application date, he said, and the services will have their hands full as they must each verify the information and, in many cases, process re-enlistments and service extensions. "We want the services to be able to prioritize their applications," Clark said. Once that is done, the services will pass the application to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Clark said. "At that point ... the family member will be treated by VA just as if they were a service member or veteran," he said.

Clark denied that a request for delayed applications is related to a fear of crashing computer servers; the Web site is being administered by the Defense Manpower Data Center, whose servers have "substantial" capability, he said. No changes have been made to the final rules previously announced; their implementation was delayed over a procedural matter that has been resolved, Clark said.

The final rules, according to the Pentagon, allow transferability of a portion or all of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for any member of the armed forces (active duty or Selected Reserve, officer or enlisted) on or after August 1, 2009, who is eligible for the benefit, and: * Has at least six years of service in the armed forces on the date of election and agrees to serve four additional years in the armed forces from the date of election. * Has at least 10 years of service in the armed forces (active duty and/or Selected Reserve) on the date of election, is precluded by either standard policy or statute from committing to four additional years, and agrees to serve for the maximum amount of time allowed by such policy or statute, or is or becomes retirement-eligible during the period from Aug 1, 2009, through Aug 1, 2013.

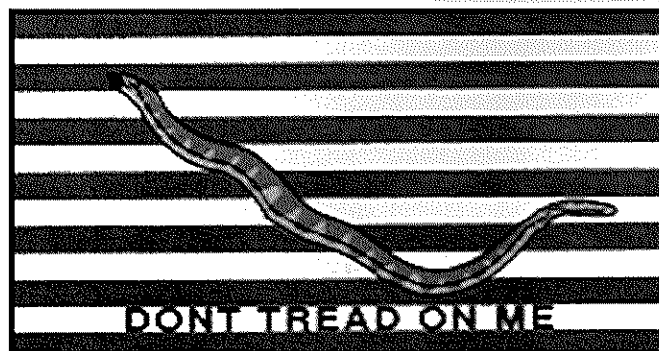
For those eligible for retirement on Aug 1, 2009, no additional service is required. For those who have an approved retirement date after Aug 1, 2009, and before July 1, 2010, no additional service is required. For those eligible for retirement after Aug 1, 2009, and before Aug 1, 2010, one year of additional service after approval of transfer is re-

quired. For those eligible for retirement on or after Aug 1, 2010, and before Aug 1, 2011, two years of additional service after approval of transfer are required. For those eligible for retirement on or after Aug 1, 2011, and before Aug 1, 2012, three years of additional service after approval of transfer required.

An individual approved to transfer an entitlement to educational assistance under this section may transfer the individual's entitlement to the individual's spouse, one or more of the individual's children, or any combination of spouse and child. A family member must be enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) and be eligible for benefits at the time of transfer to receive transferred education benefits. A child's subsequent marriage will not affect his or her eligibility to receive the education benefit. However, after an individual has designated a child as a transferee under this section, the individual retains the right to revoke or modify the transfer at any time. A subsequent divorce also will not affect the transferee's eligibility to receive education benefits, but again, after an individual has designated a spouse as a transferee under this section, the eligible individual retains the right to revoke or modify the transfer at any time.

An eligible service member may transfer up to the total months of unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, or the entire 36 months if the member has used none. Spouses may start to use the benefit immediately, either while the member remains in the armed forces or for up to 15 years from the service member's separation from active duty. Spouses are not eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill's monthly book or living stipends while the member is serving on active duty.

Children may start to use the benefit only after the individual making the transfer has completed at least 10 years of service, either while the eligible individual remains in the military or after separation from active duty. Children may not use the benefit until they have attained a secondary school diploma (or equivalency certificate), or reached 18 years of age. They are entitled to the monthly book and living stipends even if the eligible individual is on active duty. Children may not use the benefit after reaching 26 years of age.





Top left AMRAAM Outstanding Performers, far left AO1 now AOC (AW) Michael McShane from CVW-7 far right AO1 now AOC(AW/SW) Anthony Paul Diego, was selected while on board Lincoln but now attached to CNATTU, Whidbey Island, posing with Raytheon Missile Systems AMRAAM Sustainment Manager Mark Niebel



Bottom left CAPT Jeffery "Zoil" Penfield, AOC McShane, AOC Diego, Col Michael "Willy" Andersen 328 ARSG



AIM-9X Cutting Edge award winner AO2 Andrew Blackwell, VFA -15 with CAPT Jeffery "Zoil" Penfield, PMA-259

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

<http://www.aoweb.org/AAO/>

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

FIRST TIME MEMBERS \$20.00 PER YEAR OR \$30.00 FOR TWO YEARS

PREVIOUS MEMBERS AND ANNUAL RENEWALS \$20.00 PER YEAR

NAME: _____ SPOUSE: _____
LAST FIRST MI

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: home: () - - work: () - -

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

DATES SERVED: _____ TO _____ Last SSN: - _____

Marine Corp MOS: _____

Type of membership: Regular () Associate ()

SPONSOR: _____

I elect to receive my Red Shirt by downloading it from the Website only. () Please Initial.

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. LaMaitre USN Ret.
9691 Bundy Drive
Santee, CA 92071-2771

March 2008

**GIVE THIS FORM TO A FELLOW ORDNANCEMAN
SPECIAL !!!!!!!!!!!!!**

FIRST TIME RE-ENLISTEES SUBMIT THIS APPLICATION
ALONG WITH A SIGNED COPY OF YOUR RE-ENLISTMENT
CONTRACT FOR A ONE YEAR FREE MEMBERSHIP.

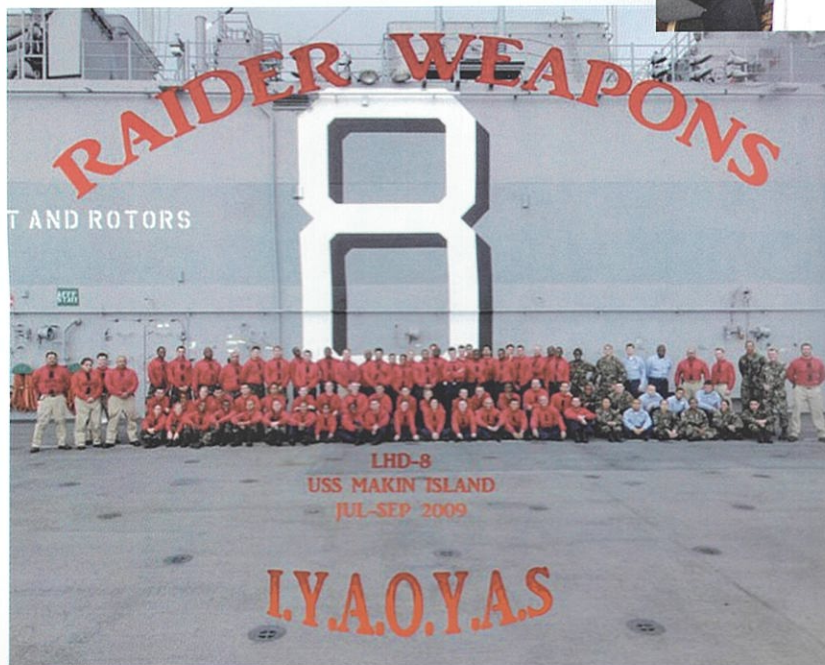
IF YOU ARE ALREADY A MEMBER YOUR EXPIRATION DATE WILL BE EXTENDED ONE YEAR.



Past and Present Scholarship Winners- Left to Right: Emily M. Robins- 2000 award, Shannon N. Mullins- 1987 award, Hillary A. Robins- 09, 08 & 07 awards, & Megan G. Robins- 08 award



The Robins Family



The Red Shirt

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