



THE RED SHIRT

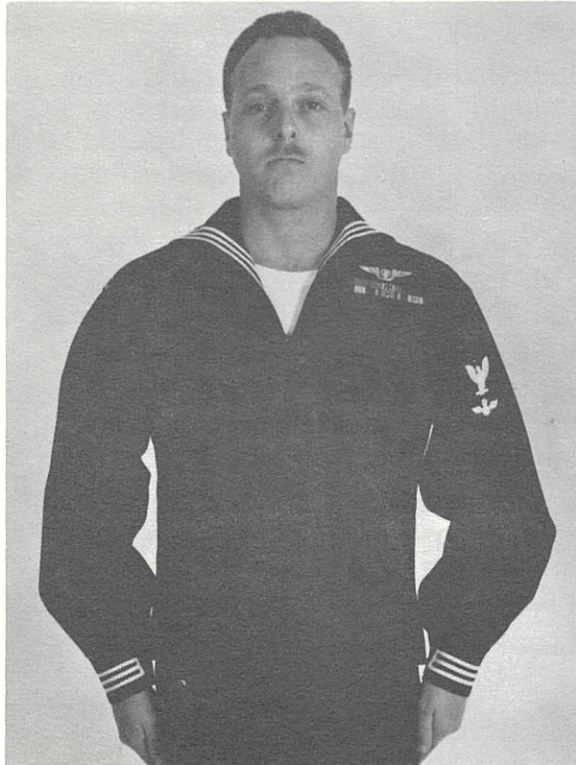


PEACE THROUGH POWER - WE ARE THE "ARMS" OF THE FLEET

Newsletter No. 46

August 1992

AVIATION ORDNANCEMAN OF THE YEAR



AO1 (AW) Scott PALUMBO

From the President

For all of you that missed the convention at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas this year, make plans for next year at the Sand Regency in Reno. The rooms are great and they are ready for us. The convention this year was a huge success with great committees and a lot of hard work that resulted in AO1 Scott Palumbo from USS NIMTZ being awarded as the 1992 John W. Finn AO of

(See PRESIDENT Page 2)

Marine Aviation Ordnance celebrates 70 years of service

MCAS El Toro - Who was responsible for providing Aviation Ordnancemen with a beautiful day to hold a large picnic? Was it "Mother Nature" or "Santa Barbara"? It may have been "Santa Barbara", considering how nice the weather conditions were at the picnic grounds where approximately 500 Marines, former Marines, retirees and civilian personnel recently gathered to commemorate Marine Aviation Ordnance's 70th Anniversary.

A virgin and martyr, Santa Barbara is said to have lived at the end of the 3rd and beginning of the 4th century of the christian era. After she secretly became a christian, she was denounced, tortured and later executed by her wealthy father, Dioscorus.

Later, Dioscorus was killed by lightning. After his death, Santa Barbara became known as the protector against thunder, lightning, and explosive flame. Aviation Ordnancemen believe her to be the patron saint of cannoneers and ordnancemen.

"Everyone believes in something, and for the past 70 years, ordnancemen have adopted the legend of 'Santa Barbara'. She is looked upon as the protector of all explosive handlers," said LtCol. Mickey L. DeBerry, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing's ordnance officer.

From the size of the crowd at 3rd MAW Aviation Ordnance Section's annual celebration, "Santa Barbara" has been protecting ordnancemen for a long time.

Marines from here, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twenty-Nine Palms, CA and MCASs Camp Pendleton, Tustin and Yuma

(See MARINE AOs Page 2)

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN

President

CDR Garry Laun
2726 - Bottom Ridge Drive
Orange Park, FL 32073
Hm (904) 276 - 4981
Wk (904) 778 - 5535

Address Corrections to

Secretary/Treasurer

Gerald F. Gannon
1245 - Cunningham Ave
St. Charles, MO 63301
(314) 946 - 0503

Newsletter Editor

Jeff Sassone
41442 - Avenida De La Reina
Temecula, CA 92592
Hm (714) 676 - 6242
Wk (619) 545 - 2772

PRESIDENT . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

the year (Petty Officer Palumbo was attached to NAS Whidbey when his application was submitted) and John Boyle from the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Competition was extremely tough this year and my special thanks to "DIGGER" O'Dell and his board of 374 years of experience for a job well done.

Congratulations are also in order to the CDR Robert L. Crow Scholarship winners; Renee Richards, daughter of AOC Tom Richards, James Edge, son of AOC J.C. Edge, and Kelly Porter, daughter of LT Ed Porter. Each will receive a 750 dollar award.

This year we also placed two super individuals in the AO Hall of Fame, they were AOC(RET) Edwin Faraday and LCDR(RET) Don Baumer.

New Officers elected were LCDR(RET) Chuck Onken, Vice President for LCDR(RET) Tom Robbins, thanks Tom for your years of dedication. LTCOL Gary Klaus was elected to the board of directors and a special welcome back to the members. Also elected to the board of directors was Joe Manley with Gary and Joe replacing two other ordies George Adams and Mike Taylor who have served with great dedication my thanks to you also.

Captain Bob "RAMJET" Ramsay and his wife Kathy were well received and we appreciate his taking time to be our great speaker this year, (see letter).

I also want to express my sincere appreciation for everyone's professionalism and conduct exhibited at this years convention/symposium. The AO "A" school hosted the PIP this year and was a captive audience for our medal of honor winner John W. Finn and the Presentation of the 1942 bomb truck from Charlie Middlebrook who turned over the title and keys to John who in turn presented them to myself for the Association. Many thanks to those of you and your hard work that made it possible. In addition to the truck presentation the plaque from USS Oriskany honoring those who died in the 1966 fire was presented with a bit of Qual/Cert history by LCDR(RET) Haggerup and was enjoyed by all of those in attendance. The program finished with a birthday cake being wheeled in on a bomb skid for John Finns 83rd birthday a moving event. We love you John, hope you have many more!!

A 1949 NATTC, Memphis album was also presented to the museum by AOC(RET) Bill Kincheloe. A lot of old memories, thanks Bill. There will be a Ground Breaking ceremony onboard NAS Cecil Field for the CDR Jud Hendricks Aviation Ordnance memorial 25 Sep-

tember, 1992, on Heritage Row, please make plans to attend if you're in the area for more information contact CDR Floyd English, (904) 778-6041(AV) 860-6041 or myself at (904) 778-5535 (AV) 860-5535/76. That's about it for now start making plans for next years convention its never too early.

Gary Laun
President

The following letter was received by the President from this years guest speaker and is provided for the information of the membership

**Letter from R.L Ramsay, III
Capt. USN**

Dear Gary:

On behalf of Kathy and myself, I want to thank you and the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen for the great opportunity to share the Association's reunion weekend in Las Vegas, Nevada. We had a great time.

I particularly enjoyed speaking to your group and sincerely hope my presentation was properly tailored for both the retired and active duty audience.

Additionally, Kathy and I enjoyed meeting so many "Gunners" and their wives. It was indeed a pleasure for both of us.

Good luck on you tour in San Diego. Let us keep working together to "keep the fleet in bombs, rockets, and bullets."

Respectfully,
R. L. Ramsay, III
Capt. USN

MARINE AOs . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

greeted retired ordnancemen from as far away as Washington D.C and the midwest. Civilian personnel affiliated with Aviation Ordnance also participated in this annual event.

"In the past 26 years I have been attending this annual event, this is by far the most significant of all the celebrations," said LtCol. DeBerry, "The ordnance community has been pulled back together primarily due to the efforts at Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and this event reflected it greatly."

Master Gunnery Sergeant William A. Straddeck, 3rd MAW's Aviation Ordnance Chief, and the senior enlisted ordnanceman in the Marine Corps was there. He has spent more than 30 years in Aviation Ordnance.

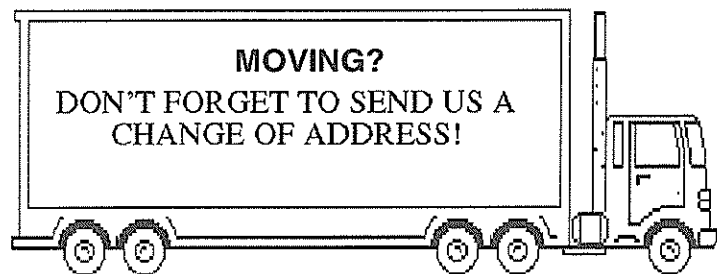
"There has been a big change in Aviation Ordnance since it became a part of the Marine Corps April 25, 1922. Then, Aviation Ordnance

consisted of one warrant officer and three enlisted men to perform unit duties, with a division of six aircraft. Now, there are approximately 130 Aviation Ordnance Officers, and 2,800 enlisted marines," said MGySgt. Straddeck.

Aviation Ordnancemen, whose primary mission is to provide complete armament assistance and support Fleet Marine Force aircraft, are known for celebrating their anniversaries through various function on Marine installations.

"This was the best celebration Aviation Ordnance has ever had," said MGySgt. Straddeck, "There were plenty of food, refreshments, and games. Everyone enjoyed themselves 100 percent," said MGySgt Straddeck.

Written by Cpl. Marion J. Martin originally published in MCASs El Toro and Tustin "Flight Jacket" on April 24, 1992.



From the Desk of the Secretary/Treasurer

1992 Convention Synopsis

The 1992 Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Convention was held 11 through 14 June 1992, at the Imperial Palace Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. There were 322 members and guest in attendance.

Registration was held on the 10th, 11th and 12th with Board of Director meetings for both the Association and the Auxiliary also on the 11th. Committee meetings were held also for the Association and Auxiliary all day the 12th. The 13th was taken up with General Business meetings all day and the Awards Banquet dinner the evening of the 13th. Board of Director meetings were conducted the morning of the 14th.

This was a very successful convention with many KUDOS going to the 92 Convention Chairman Mr. Frank Thill, AOCS/Ret, and his committee, Jim and Carol Thomas and the staff of the Imperial Palace. Not only were their 322 registered members and guests, but there were 240 in attendance for the Friday night social and 106 in attendance for the general business meeting. For the Awards/Banquet dinner there were 227 paid members present which feature Captain Robert I. Ramsay III as the guest speaker. Additionally there were 18 states represented with a total of 80 members and guest

from east to the Mississippi.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

The 1992 General Business Meeting was called to order by Association President CDR Gary L. Laun at 0910 hours on 13 June 1992. Significant events were:

Donations of \$1754.70 to the Robert L. Crow Scholarship fund by the Chapters, members in attendance and the Association Auxiliary. The Auxiliary top all contributors with \$322.00. \$50.00 was donated by Chapter 8 for the AO Museum and a personal contribution by Tom Robins, LCDR/Ret and Vice President of the Association, of \$50.00 to assist in the deferment of cost in the restoration of the MK 2 Bomb Truck by Charlie Middlebrook.

Announcement by the President that Gerald F. Gannon, AOCS/Ret, had agreed to fulfill the remaining term of the Late Secretary/Treasurer Robert A. Ashworth, CDR/Ret, tour of office until June 1993

1991 General Business meeting minutes and 1991-1992 financial reports were provided by the Secretary/Treasurer. They were both approved by the membership in attendance.

Status was also provided by the Secretary/Treasurer on the Associations efforts to register the Associations trademark. This effort should reach a successful conclusion by the convention of 1993.

Association Newsletter report was provided by the Editor LT Jeff Sassone.

Status of the Associations participation in the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. was provided by the President.

1993 Convention Chairman George Adams, CWO-4/Ret, reported that a contract had been signed for the 3rd weekend of June at the Sands Regency in Reno, NV.

1994 Convention Chairman, Jerry Gannon reported that the convention would be held in St. Louis, MO on the 3rd weekend of June 1994. A hotel had not been settled on but he is leaning toward downtown St. Louis vice the suburbs.

Committee reports were given by:

Tom Robbins, Vice President and Membership Committee Chairman, reported that the total membership in the Association now stands at 2001 which is the largest ever. However, he reported that the biggest factor impeding a larger growth is the retention of members and urged all members to assist in this endeavor.

1992 Convention Committee Chairman, Frank Thill, AOCS/Ret

Safety Committee Chairman, Joe Manley, LCDR/Ret.

By-laws Committee Chairman, Richard Wales, LCDR/Ret.

AVORDY Committee Chairman, Ralph "Digger" O'Dell, LCDR/Ret, said that his committee had reviewed 78 nominees packages for the 1992 John W. Finn Aviation Ordnancemen of the Year. This committee comprise of members with over 374 years experience in the Aviation Ordnance field. The Winner and First Runner-up were:

Winner:AO1 (AW) Scott David Palumbo, previously of the Medium Attack Tactical Electronic warfare Wing Pacific Fleet and currently serving onboard the USS NIMITZ, CVN-68.

Runner-Up:AO1(AW) John Joseph Boyle III onboard the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN, CVN-72

CDR Floyd E. English reported on the Robert L. Crow Scholarship Committee activities. His committee had reviewed a total of 14 applicants for this years scholarship award. The selectees were:

Ren'ee D. Richards daughter of AOC Thomas Richards

James C. Edge son of AOC J. C. Edge

Kelly E. Porter daughter of LT Ed Porter

CDR Del Oakes chaired the Hall of Fame Committee. His committee reviewed three candidates records submitted by Association members for consideration to be inducted into the Associations Hall of Fame. Inducted into the Hall for their outstanding contribution to the Aviation Ordnance Field were:

Donald G. Baumer, LT/Ret

Edwin R. Farady, AOC/Ret

There were Chapter reports from; One of NAS Lemoore, Three of Whidbey Island, Four of Tidewater area, Five of China Lake, Eight of San Diego, Nine of Jacksonville, FL, Twelve of Cubi Pt. in absence by President CDR Gary Laun, Twenty One of NAS Fallon "Ordnance Town USA", Twenty Two of the Capital area, Sixty Two of USS Independence in absence by Chuck Onken, LCDR/Ret, Seventy Two by AOC Rick Voorhees, and the Auxiliary by Kathy Gannon.

Under New Business the President announced that George Adams had been selected as the 1995 convention chairman and that Chapter 21 had volunteered as his Convention Committee.

Cdr Ron Curry (Capt Selectee) volunteered to check with the Navy memorial in Washington, D.C. on the status of the Associations Chair and

report at the next convention.

George Adams donated \$100.00 to the Scholarship fund in remembrance of the Late Secretary/Treasurer Robert A. Ashworth, CDR/Ret.

Betty Crow also donated \$100.00 to the Scholarship fund in remembrance of her late husband Robert L. Crow, CDR/Ret, for whom that Scholarship award is named for.

Al Castro, AOC/Ret, of Chapter 22 provided a video tape depicting the restoration of the MK 2 Bomb truck that Charlie Middlebrook had obtained and Chapter 22 assistance in its refurbishment. This was a very interesting film as it depicted the truck from rust to life, loading on board the USMC aircraft for the flight to Pearl Harbor, and John Finn riding in the 50th anniversary parade in remembrance of Pearl Harbor 1941. Al also requested that the Association provide additional funding to help defray the cost that Charlie had expended out of his pocket. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously that the Association provide an additional \$1000.00 to Charlie. Future plans call for the truck to be presented by Charlie to the AO museum at the 1992 PIP conference to be held in July at NATTC, Memphis TN.

Election of new officers was the next order of business with the following officers elected with terms to expire June 1995:

Vice President Charles R. Onken, LCDR/Ret.

Board of Directors LtCol Gary Klaus

Board of Directors Joe Manley, LCDR/Ret.

President announced that he had appointed Cdr Ray Ramirez as the Committee Chairman of the Nomination Committee for the election of Officers for the Association.

Additionally, the President nominated the Office of Vice President to head up the committee for future conventions. Serving on this committee would be Jim Thomas of Travel Tours and Company and past convention chairmen.

Chapter One held drawings for AO calendar sales winners.

The Associations General Business meeting was adjourned at 1234 hours 13 June 1992.

Following the adjournment of the General Business meeting, presentations were provided by CDR Del Oakes of the Naval Safety Center in Norfolk, VA on ordnance safety and Joe Murphy of Indian Head, Maryland on CADS/AEPS. CDR Curry also provided a short briefing for interested Aviation Ordnance LDO/CWOs and future candidates.

The Banquet that evening was highlighted by

the announcement of this 1992 selectees for AVORDY and First Runner-up, Robert L. Crow Scholarship selectees and the Association's Hall of Fame inductees. Capt Ramsay gave a very interesting and enlightening talk on the trials and tribulations of the actual movement of weapons during the recently concluded Desert Storm operations and bureaucracy that is constantly fought in Washington to supply the field commands. Additionally Capt Ramsay provided insight to the new weapons that are coming on line that will replace the weapons currently in the Navy inventory.

Gerald F. Gannon
Secretary/Treasurer

WHERE ARE THEY NOW ????

Anyone knowing the where abouts of the following members please have them forward their change of address to the National Secretary/Treasurer. Many members lose contact with the Association when they move or relocate, they fail to pass on their new address. Mail is returned with "moved and left no forwarding address" or "insufficient address". Please help locate these members so we can send them their "Red Shirt" and they can see what's going on in the AO community.

HARVARD M. ADAMS	SIGFRED S. ALBINO
RANDY A. BACA	AOAN CRAIG BASHOSE
ROBERT BERG	JAMES T. BORER
KEMA BROWN	AO1 D. C. CARPENTER
DANY P. CHOPTIJ	WESLEY L. CHRISTY
KENNETH D. CLARK	DOUGLAS S. CREWS
GLENN D. CRUMLEY	JUAN CARLOS CUENCA
GLEN H. DAVIS	TERESA K. DICKENS
JOHN DUNCAN	AOC EUGENE R. ENNIS
DOUGLAS FREGUSON	REX FORD
ROGER A. FOWLER	GARY GABRIEL
JAMES GILMORE	BRADLEY HEFLIN
KEITH A. JOHNSON	ROBERT C. JONES
AO1 S. KIHLSSTADIUS	STEVEN J. LACAZE
SCOTT A. LOVESY	MARK MASSEY
PRC JOHN H. MATHENY	D. E. MATTINGLY
KELLY JO MCMANUS	WT3 MARK MCMILLIAN
AZ2 THOMAS J. MCNEIL	AO1 GARY L. MCQUEEN
AO3 JEWELL MILGRIM	WILLIAM C. MORRISON
PAUL D. NICKEL	C.W. PANTELOPOULOS
AO1 JOHN PFEIFER	AOC ROBERT K. REA
LLOYD R. ROGERS	AOAN JOHN G. SHERRY
WILLIAM SMITH	AO1 C. S. THOMASSON
WILLIAM B. WALDRON	AOCS JOHN H. WILKEN JR
LARRY A. WRIGHT	

If you known someone that is listed have them call (314) 946-0503 and pass on their new address or mail it to Jerry Gannon, 1245 Cunningham Ave, St Charles, MO 63301.

From The President of The Auxiliary

Our first full convention as an auxiliary is behind us and it was a success. This years first objective was to recruit new members, and to raise money for the Robert L. Crow Scholarship Fund.

There were 41 new members recruited of which 3 were men. We raised \$322.00 from the sale of pens and donations. Which was the largest donation presented at the convention.

I want to thank all the auxiliary members that assisted in meeting those objectives.

I want to apologize to those ladies that came to the convention and were looking forward to the Saturday morning coffee and felt left out because there was not one scheduled in the agenda. The general business meeting is also the Saturday morning coffee and member or not you are welcome to attend.

Another one of the objectives in the establishment of the Auxiliary is to meet and get to know the guests that come to the convention with members of the Association. Then the convention becomes a reunion of friends with a little bit of business on the side.

The By-Laws have been drawn up and will be published in the Red Shirt before the '93 convention. Voting on these by-laws for approval, disapproval or modifications will be at the '93 general business meeting on Saturday morning.

A Chaplain was added to the elected officers, and the newly elected Chaplain is Mary Ann Laun.

Stella Collier is investigating lifetime memberships and will have a presentation for the '93 general business meeting.

Standing committees were formed, with Chairmen's appointed, and approved by the Board of Directors. They are By-Laws; Beth Kershisnik, Audit; Kate Sawyer, Membership; BJ O'Dell, Nominating; Susette Roberts, and Historian; Bev Onken.

Auxiliary Chapters were discussed, as well as raising money for the Scholarship Fund on the Chapter level. None to be a duplication of the memorabilia offered by the Association. A fund raiser for the '93 convention was also discussed with several members looking into different ideas, and hopefully being able to develop them. Our Auxiliary male members may also have hobbies that can be used in our Scholarship Fund raiser.

See you all in Reno June 18th-20th at the Sands.

Kathy Gannon
President

Chapter 1 Lemoore, CA

Greetings to you all from Chapter 1. The convention this year was absolutely super. It is difficult to fully recoil and get back into the swing of things after so much fun in Vegas. Our June meeting following the convention found us on base at the barbecue pits grilling up some chow and spilling a few stories.

29 August is our Annual AO family day picnic at Hickey Park. We will have games for the kids, raffles, horse shoes, volley ball, softball and 4790 shot put. Kids get in free and adults pay only one dollar. Noon start up time.

Other events are a Adopt-a-highway walk in August and a Halloween party in October.

Astronaut Captain Michael Baker has accepted our request to carry our association patch with him on his next space shuttle flight in late September. Who knows, we might see our patch floating by on the CBS evening news. NASA will frame this for us and may present it at the John W. Finn Aviation Ordnance Museum. We will be keeping in close touch with the National and the Millington Chapter S-87 on updates as they occur.

Many thanks to Clyde Baker, father of Michael Baker, who has made this event possible.

We are in work on 1993 Calendar sales. These Calendars will be ready by early September. We will be keeping in touch with the Chapters on sales information. We thank you for your support with the calendar sales.

Until next time,
Bill Scoggin
President Chapter 1

Chapter 3

Whidbey Island, WA

The Great Pacific Northwest is still here and so is Chapter 3. The last three months the Chapter has been very active. In May we sponsored the first Navy Relief Dart Tournament here at Whidbey, which turned out to be a great success.

During June, while some of us fortunate ones were able to attend the convention in Las Vegas having a great time, Rob Walecki headed up a band of merry men to participate in the American Cancer Society 24 hour walk/run. The team of Steve Hall, Bob Sage, Ross Esparza, Sammie Fleming, Willie White, Reggie Hayes, and Chris Staats Raised over twelve hundred dollars and walked over 105 miles. Sierra Hotel!!

The end of the month was spent getting ready for the airshow. This was a total team effort, we had blue light specials at three different locations selling T shirts, hats, squeeze bottles and cool cups. The weather was perfect and sales were up. Thank You from Chapter 3 to those that helped us over the two day period.

Las weekend we had our summer picnic. It had to be the best one yet. Over 200 people, beautiful weather, pony rides and clowns for the kids, excellent food, volleyball, horseshoes, camaraderie and some really good sea stories abounded! Our thanks to Mark Kolwyck, Denise Walecki, and everyone else that made this years picnic a heck of a lot of fun.

All of us at Chapter 3 would like to wish the best to Gunner Fyfe, Gunner Earl, Senior Chief Hall, and Chief Davies and their families as they begin "Retired Life". Fair Winds and Following Seas.

J.D. Richardson
President Chapter 3

Chapter 4 Tidewater, VA

Greetings to all Aviation Ordnancemen from your fellow Ordies in Chapter 4.

First of all, a sincere appreciation and well done to everyone involved in making the '92 Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Convention a super success. We are looking forward to next year's convention in Reno and for all Chapter 4 folks, it isn't too early to start formulating plans to go. If you haven't been to a Convention yet, you don't know what you're missing!

Our congratulations to AO1 Scott Palumbo, NAS Whidbey Island, WA (USS Nimitz, now) for being selected Aviation Ordnanceman of the Year and to AO1 John Boyle, USS Abraham Lincoln CVN-72 as the 1992 Runner-up. Well done guys!

Kudos to the three Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Scholarship winners: Kelly Porter, James Edge, and Ren'ee Williams. Kelly Porter is the daughter of LT Ed Porter, CVW-8 Ordnance Officer and James Edge is the son of AOC J.C. Edge, AIMD NAS Oceana, both parents are Chapter 4 members.

Also, two extremely deserving Ordies were recently inducted into the Aviation Ordnancemen Hall of Fame, they are AOC Ed Faraday, USN, RET and LCDR Don Baumer, USN, RET. Chapter 4 salutes you for your numerous contributions and the difference you made in our profession.

On 27 June 92 Chapter 4 held our second "FOD Walkdown" on a 1 1/2 mile section of London Bridge Road in Virginia Beach. It was

quite successful and we know we have made a positive impact on the environment in that area, as we only filled eight large trash bags compared to the five pick-up truck loads on our first effort in April. Thanks to the twenty volunteers who participated, the cooperative weather, and Dawn Crosby, who didn't work us too hard. We wrapped it up in just under 2 hours, after the hard work everybody was anxious to get back to VFW Post 392, as our President Don Howard, LCDR, USN, RET was cooking his masterpiece barbecue beans and hot dogs. There was plenty of cold beer and soda pop on hand to quench our thirst.

I'd like to give a special thanks and well done to CWO3 Ron Jevasa our Vice President for his efforts during his tenure. The Gunner resigned his position and is now aboard the USS John F. Kennedy CV-67 which is soon to leave on an extended deployment. At the August meeting we will take nominations and elect a new Vice President. Be there, be heard, vote!

Recent awards for Chapter IV members, congratulations to LCDR Chuck Cole USN for being awarded the Navy Commendation medal upon his transfer to the Naval Safety Center, he had been the weapons officer at NAS Oceana. Also, congratulations to AO1 Perry Stafford on receiving the Navy Achievement medal, Petty Officer Stafford is attached to Attack Squadron Sixty-Five.

Chapter IV had one member selected for AOC from the recent CPO selection Board he is AO1 Joe Longwell of Attack Squadron Thirty-Six welcome to the Khaki ranks, and well done "Chief".

On 16 July 92, Stu Carson AOCM Ret and AOC Mike Snider USN had the privilege to attend Chapter 9's meeting in Jacksonville, Florida. We enjoyed it guys and thanks for having us.

Chapter IV is now in the process of planning for two drawings through out the year, the first drawing will either be for a gas grill, color tv or golf clubs and the grand drawing will be for a round trim ticket any where in the U.S. which of course include Reno for 93's convention. All proceeds and profits will go to the Association's scholarship fund.

On 25 September 1992, Chapter 9 will host, sponsor and dedicate a memorial to the late Cdr Judson Hendricks outside the main gate at Naval Air Station Cecil Field on "Heritage Highway". Chapter Nine has put a lot of time and effort into this lasting tribute to "Jud" for his outstanding achievements in the Aviation Ordnance field. They are hoping for media coverage for this formal event and an outstanding turnout is anticipated. Chapter IV can certainly show their

support by attending this dedication for further information contact Stu Carson at 468-9249.

Retirements Section, on 17 July 1992, AOC Norm Spencer retired from Weapons Department NAS Oceana and will settle in the Kingsville, TX area and will be missed as Norm was very active in Chapter IV. Upon his retirement he was awarded the Navy Commendation medal. Say Hi to AOCM Steve Hughes for us and fair winds and following seas.

On 28 August 1992, AOCM Bob Peterman will retire from the Naval Service. The Master Chief is the LCPO at NAS Oceana Weapons and his ceremony will be in the Weapons Compound at 10:00.

On 31 September 1992, CDR Del Oakes will retire from the Naval Service and is at the Naval Safety Center, NAS Norfolk. Further information on the Commander's retirement will be promulgated later. All the above are Chapter IV members.

Our Chapter is still growing and it takes a lot of hard work beating the bushes by it's dedicated members and I must mention a few, LCDR Jack Wilson (still the JFK connection), AOCM Bob Peterman, CWO3 Ron Jerasa, and AOCS Mike Jarret, Thanks Guys. Chapter IV meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 1900 in the VFW Post 392 on Bowland Parkway just off London Bridge Road. We'll keep the light on for ya.

Stu Carson, AOCM USN RET
Secretary/Treasurer Chapter 4

Chapter 9 Jacksonville, FL

The second quarter of 1992 found Chapter 9 doing quite well although the attendance at meetings was somewhat lower than expected. But, when we consider the facts that, school is out, summer vacation, convention, etc..., I guess we really did fairly well. It's really great to see that we are getting more and more of the VP and HE Ordies in attendance, and many are becoming members of the Association.

The big event of the May meeting was the drawing of the round trip ticket to the National Convention. And, as luck often is, the winning ticket was sold on the night of the drawing. And the winner was, "Obie" O'Brian! Both Obie and his wife, Murph, have reported that they had a wonderful time at the Convention.

Billy Harkins, Tony Gonzales and I certainly had a great time as we played golf six times during the 11 day trip we took off going to the Convention. And for the benefit of those who may be thinking about driving out next year, we drove

a van getting approximately 15 miles per gallon, and it only cost us \$130 each for fuel. So, a trip such as ours can be as inexpensive as one chooses to make it. We surely had the MAN from above riding with us as we found out the day after we got home that Billy had experienced a mile heart attack about 200 miles before we got home. His original thought was that it was a flare up of a hiatal hernia so he told me to just continue driving when, I asked his if we should stop. I am happy to report that after a few days in the hospital being checked out he did not require surgery, and seems to be feeling real well.

Our safety lecture was given by the Vice President, Bob Wildermuth, reporting on an explosive incident in a HSL squadron. As in the majority of cases the failure to follow the check list, and lack of supervision. It's really amazing how many of the accident/incident reports we read are attributed to these causes.

The July meeting, with 41 members present, was very good and informative. We additionally had two guests from Chapter 4 in attendance. Stu Carson and Chief Mike (I forgot the last name), a Warrant Selectee, joined us. And during our discussion of the Jud Hendrix Memorial Dedication Stu informed us that he would approach the membership of Chapter 4 about assisting us in this effort. The dedication will be held on 25, September about noon. If anyone from other chapters want to verify actual time feel free to give me a call at (904) 773-9459. All plans, and the program should be completed at our 16 September meeting.

In conjunction with the dedication, one member mentioned the fact that the site of the Memorial is very near a picnic area. Although plans are incomplete, I'll bet we'll have some food and beverages in the immediate area. We in Chapter Nine would certainly love to see a big turn out for this event. Hopefully Congressman Craig James will be our guest speaker, and we hope that Mrs. Hendrix will be with us.

Our nominating committee for next years slate of officers reported that personnel they are approaching about serving is proceeding well. It's good to hear that more of our people are gaining enthusiasm about the Association and re willing to serve.

Gunner Jim Bohac, our Coordinator for the NAS Jacksonville Air Show, reported that there will be 42 booths available at the Air Show, and 48 requests had been submitted to operate them. Since our meeting, Jim has informed me that our Chapter has been assigned to run the Beer Booth which is one of the easiest of all. And it will certainly give us a good opportunity to make some money.

Cdr Laun gave a good report on the results of the National Convention and urged more attendance for next years event in Reno. He additionally discussed the fact he had received a letter of disbandment of Chapter 12, and the need for all of us to improve on recruitment. Many of our members have had occasion to enjoy the hospitality shown by Chapter 12 during various in port visits, and wish to send their heartfelt thanks and best wishes to all members. I've really heard some good sea-stories about some of the events.

Safety this month was conducted by AO1 John Burgess on HERO. Along with a brief discussion John took the time and effort to make available a video tape on the subject. A new revision to the OP 3565 should be coming out in the very near future.

Bob Hall
PAO Chapter 9

Chapter 21 Fallon, NV

Those of us who attended the convention at the Imperial Palace, Las Vegas had a great time. Saw a few old faces and met many new ones.

Chapter 21 would like to thank the DEVAL Corporation for room 1818.

We are in the middle of a Strike Fighter Weapons School Lemoore detachment. NAS Whidbey Island will be coming onboard soon with a MARPS Detachment. Our next big evolutions will be CVW-9 in August, and CVW-8 in September.

Our monthly meeting this month was small due to the start of the fourth of July weekend.

We contributed one hundred dollars worth of canned goods to the City of Fallon's Food Bank for the needy. It had sustained a theft a month or so ago and they requested help from the community to replenish their stock.

That about wraps it up from ORDNANCE-TOWN U.S.A. for this input, if any of you RED SHIRTS are in the area, give us a call. We hold our meetings on the first Thursday of each month at the American Legion Hall, 90 North Ada Street, Fallon. You will be more than welcomed to attend.

AOCM G.E. Copple
President Chapter 21

Chapter 62 USS Independence

Chapter 62 members are HOT literally as we're located in the Persian Gulf. We have had

success at some fund raiser's as we are still trying to get the chapter going. AOC William Lee headed-up a fund raiser in which \$510.00 was raised and donated to the Elizabeth Saunders orphanage in Tokyo, Japan. We have had numerous assembly raffle's, and have raised enough money to have a chapter patch made, designed by EM3 Brian Sims from the Weapons Elevator Shop. The first 200 patches are on order now, and should be here soon. Additionally, we are exploring the types of fund raisers for our return to Japan. I'm sure with 100 members strong the 1/5 ORDIE TEAM will come up with something. Well that is about all the news for now, till next time, Keep It Safe.

K.B. Hancock
President, Chapter 62

Chapter 68 USS Nimitz

While a lot of you were enjoying yourselves at the Association convention, Chapter 68 was underway off SOCAL completing all those post-SRA inspections everyone loves so much. All the inspections went extremely well with a good showing from all the weapons divisions.

During our North Island inport on 23 June, we had to say a final farewell to one of the driving forces behind the success of Chapter 68, CWO4 Wardee Bruce. Wardee is going home to Bremerton having completed over thirty years of service. I first met Wardee while we were both in VA-196 launching SPADS off the USS BON HOMME RICHARD in 1965 and it was he, as much as any body, that made me decide to be an Ordnanceman. He will be missed by all.

We still have not had too many opportunities to get involved in any community projects because of our schedule, but we are preparing for an inport in Seattle during Seafair week. We have stocked up on chapter ball caps and coffee cups to sell to the thousands of expected visitors to advertise the association as well as build up our treasury.

Thomas E. Lord
Secretary/Treasurer, Chapter 68

Chapter 72 USS Abraham Lincoln

Congratulations to AO1(AW) John J. Boyle on his selection as the John W. Finn, Aviation Ordnanceman of the Year First Runner-up for 1992

Chapter Seventy-Two hosted a Navy/Marine Corp Relief Softball Slam 92, during the recent Relief Drive. We raised over \$700.00, with the

help of Lincoln's Mustangs, CPOA and ABMA. Fun was had by all, and talk of making the Softball Slam an annual event.

We would like to recognize the following LINCOLN AO's on their recent advancements:

AO1 L. LETT	AO3 S. CARBONARI
AO3 S. HOWERTON	AO3 R. JOHNSON
AO3 E. HALFORD	AO3 M. BROWN
AO3 M. NETHERCUTT	AO3 B. MARKS
AO3 A. ROBERDS	

J.J. Boyle
President Chapter 72



AOC J.A. BEAUCHESNE
AOC J.J. BELL
AOC D.G. BONDURANT
AOC J.A. COPPLE
AOC J.W. HARRIS
AOC E.H. MCMAHAN
AOC H.S. MOORISON
AOC A. NAROG
AOC R. OLD
AOC E.L. PINKEVICH
AOC J.J. ROCHFORD
AOC M.W. SCHOOLS
AOC W.G. VISNAW
AOC D.D. WELLS

Chaplains' Corner

Once more and all the time "THANKS" to the "BIG GUY" for watching over us, and making sure the convention in Las Vegas was a time to remember. I think a good time was had by all. It was especially heartwarming to see reunions of old shipmates that haven't pulled liberty together in a long, long time. If you aren't a member of the Association, or you are and don't try to make it to convention, you are really missing something. Start planning for next year in Reno. BE THERE!!!

For those who indicated an interest in the Saint Barbara posters I had at the convention, please hold on 'til next newsletter. Plans in the mill for about a 16X30 or 12x20 in the cost range of about \$10. Hang in there!

In our continuing line-up of watchful spirits, we naturally have our ordnance patroness St. Barbara, who paradoxically happens to be the patroness of architects and engineers; and so far for seafarers we have St. Erasmus and St.

Christopher. Going back to the third and fourth centuries we find a "real" sailor monk, Saint Brendan (c.484 - c.577) Like quite a few saints before books and writing became common much of his life is steeped in legend. Although his specific birthplace can only be surmised, he was an Irishman, educated in a monastic school, ordained in 512, and founder of many monasteries in Ireland. He missionaried in and around England, Scotland, and Ireland and became famous for his voyages, particularly a seven year journey to the "Land of Promise" of which he wrote the tremendously popular "Navigation Santi Brendani Abbatis". I haven't read it myself but I'm sure a few of you have. Thought to be a fictional work and not taken too seriously, in the mid 1970s an exploration expert. Tim Severin, followed the directions in the book and sailed from Ireland to Newfoundland via Iceland and Greenland. Anyway, you can see the sailor connection and where this guy would be handy to have around, looking over your sea going shoulder.

If you're still with me I have another favor to ask that is going to require filing in your memory bank for future recall. When reciting the Pledge of Allegiance could you change the phrase from "one nation, under God" to one nation under God". There really is NOT a pause in the middle. There are several phrases where we unnecessarily pause just habit from the way we learned it I guess. Maybe we should look at the whole thing? 'preciate it and Thanks!!

A hearty "Welcome aboard" to Mary Ann Laun, our Auxiliary's Chaplain. Remember to keep our Auxiliary in your thoughts and prayers. Where would anyone be without a strong back-up, and the Lord looking over us all.

And last, but certainly not least, how about taking a moment, right now, to remember the shipmates and/or their spouses who have received their final orders ahead of us.

Until next time, Peace to all.

Ron Bushta

The Vice President Says

First, I would like to thank everyone for electing me as your new Vice President. I just can't stay out of the thick of things. I will do my best for everyone. Second, I would like to thank Tom Robbins for his outstanding work in The Association. **GREAT JOB TOM!** I know you will still be around to provide guidance. Third, I would like to get everyone to work hard for The Association and for everyone to sign-up just "ONE" new member. If we did that, The Association would have over 4000 members. Every member from E-1 thru O-6 is a recruiter for The

Association. Local Chapters please work on signing up new and old members who may have dropped out for one reason or another. It is your Association, so support it.

V/R
Chuck Onken
Vice President

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Found CDR Oakes article on his pending retirement quite interesting, but wish to emphasize to the young AO's that this CDR was not promoted because of being tossed in or out of a gin mill.

Del Oakes cannot very well blow his own tooter, but I sure can.

In the early 60's as Weapons Officer at NAS Alameda, an AO1 named Oakes was assigned to my department. He was the top of the heap, the cream of the crop and was highly recommended to be promoted to ACOM and/or to LDO.

Later in the 60's as G Division Officer on the USS Oriskany an ACOM named Oakes was in my division. He was the **BEST OF THE BEST**. G Division since has been divided into about four or five divisions. Also, neither he nor I were attached to the 'Big O' when the FIRE occurred killing many and maiming many more. Had either of us been still attached, then there would never had been a FIRE.

His article was well written and Oakes is at the peak of his profession because he is the top of the heap. His thanks to those that helped him could and should be re-worded to ALL THAT HE HELPED.

I retired in 65, before many of the young AO's were born and would like to say to them, if they are aspiring to become LDO's and head for Commander, then be like Oakes and be the BEST!

Yes, I like CDR Delbert Oakes, JR and feel privileged to have served with him.

CDR Oakes is a Commander because he was and probably still is pick of the litter.

John E. Campbell, LT, USN, RET

Thank You, all of us that have had the pleasure to work with CDR Oakes have benefited. I surely have! Ed.

Enclosed are photo copies of my graduation certificates from AOM & Aerial Gunners schools back in 1944. Thought these may be of some interest to print in an up-coming issue of The Red Shirt, as a bit of the old Navy and how they did it back when. I sent the John Finn Museum copies

Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Calendar Drawing Winners

June 1992		July 1992		August 1992	
1 Naomi Angel	Lemoore, CA	1 Pamela Yanes	Hanford, CA	1 Ed Clement	San Diego, CA
2 Kevin Quarry	China Lake, CA	2 Gary Harper	China Lake, CA	2 Vern Werre	Lemoore, CA
3 Paul Baierl	Virginia Beach, VA (50)	3 Don Howard	Virginia Beach, VA (50)	3 Bill Wellington	Virginia Beach, VA
4 * Dianel Bewer	Norfolk, VA	4 A.J. Brookmyer	USS Nimitz (100)	4 M.T. Nailey	Oak Harbor, WA
5 Michael Morse	Oak Harbor, WA	5 C.L. Patterson	Virginia Beach, VA	5 Ed Starck	Virginia Beach, VA
6 John Levitski	Ridgecrest, CA	6 Tom Elder	Oak harbor, WA	6 Jon Maletto	Oak Harbor, WA
7 Connie State	Lemoore, CA	7 Steven Uman	Ridgecrest, CA	7 E.W. Sawley	White House, FL
8 Bob May	Lemoore, CA	8 H. Mc Donald	Oak Harbor, WA	8 *Larry Moore	VF-101 (100)
9 Phil Krutsinger	Chula Vista, CA	9 Dennis Jokinen	Atsugi, Japan	9 Millford Stevens	Lemoore, CA
10 * Merry Molina	Ridgecrest, CA	10 Earnest Ashford	Atsugi, Japan	10 Vicki Pelky	Fallon, NV
11 Craig Jones	Port Hueneme, CA	11 Mike Collins	China Lake, CA	11 *Bobby Van Pelt	Lemoore, CA
12 W. Masterson	Avenal, CA	12 Corky & Rick	Hanford, CA	12 Dave Johnson	VFA-147
13 May Jones	San Diego, CA	13 Ron Burdett	San Antonio, TX	13 *Chapter	San Diego, CA
14 Fred Griffith	Lemoore, CA	14 Thomas Gay	S. Burlington, VT	14 William Maloney	Virginia Beach, VA
15 * Bob Borges	Virginia Beach, VA	15 *James Ausman	Miramar, CA	15 *Deby Geiger	Inyokern, CA
16 Monica Sullivan	Ridgecrest, CA	16 Dennis Hart	Ridgecrest, CA	16 *Glen Hart	Virginia Beach, VA
17 Robert Walecki	Oak Harbor, WA	17 Ron Jones	Ridgecrest, CA	17 John Ferguson	Ridgecrest, CA
18 G. Vansickle	VX-5	18 Dion Edon	San Diego, CA	18 * Deby Geiger	Inyokern, CA
19 Brocato (100)	VFA-27	19 Al Abshire	Lemoore, CA	19 *Joe Polanka	Virginia Beach, VA
20 Brett Ring	Ridgecrest, CA	20 Jenifer Willhite	Hanford, CA	20 Gerry Burrows	Oak Harbor, WA
21 Garry LaRock	Middlebury, VT	21 T. Lockwood	Camarillo, CA	21 Larry Hamblen	Ridgecrest, CA
22 *Dianel Brewer	Norfolk, VA	22 *James Ausman	Miramar, CA	22 *Larry Moore	VF-101
23 Mary Miller	San Diego, CA	23 Barbar Fears	China Lake, CA	23 L. Butterway	Lemoore, CA
24 Jesse Drapeau	Lemoore, CA	24 Mike Wendt	Ridgecrest, CA	24 Larry Bates	Chula Vista, CA
25 Ann Marie Bianey	El Toro, CA	25 Lynn Swangin	Lemoore, CA	25 *Mitch Heskett	VX-5
26 Anthony Ferrari	Oak Harbor, WA	26 David Smith	Oak Harbor, WA	26 James Dailey	VA-196
27 Dell Bull	Oak Harbor, WA	27 Scott O'Leary	Oak Harbor, WA	27 Eva Ellis	Hanford, CA
28 Greg Onken	Santa Monica, CA	28 Mitch Heskett	China Lake, CA	28 *Cathy Roberts	Fallon, NV
29 Danny Lord	Hanford, CA	29 N. Richardson	Oak Harbor, WA	29 *Glenn Hart	Virginia Beach, VA
30 John Scanlon	Camarillo, CA	30 Nancy Miller	Virginia Beach, VA	30 Bob Wenzel	Lemoore, CA
		31 Marge Lovell	Hanford, CA	31 Tom Gordon	Lemoore, CA

Awards greater than \$25 are indicated in parenthesis following location. Names preceded by an asterisk (*) are repeat winners.

of these along with time period AOM strikers patch and Aerial Gunners Dist. Mark, both within frames.

I would like to see an area set aside in The Red Shirt for those that would like to contact or be contacted by fellow shipmates that were Aviation Ordnancemen by printing their addresses and phone numbers. This request will have to be voted on and approved, I would guess. In the last newsletter, #45, I saw the name of a fellow AO that I served with aboard the USS Leyte in 1946 on a MED cruise. During night rearming, black-out type, I smoothly ran out of flight deck and fell 30 feet off the port side, landing on my back. I have tried to locate some of the old hands that I served with to verify this, but to no avail, a lot of them were old hands then.

It is made very hard for those that are retired to prove an injury and receive disability and the older we get, the more these injuries affect you. Oh yea, they can see that my spine is messed up but they won't take your word as to what happened and our health records are something else.

I guess the impression that has stayed with me since I first became an AOM was that these men were a special breed and no other stuck together like they did. I don't know how these new navy AO's are but I would bet they are just as tight a group of very special sailors.

Thank you for your time, God Bless you and yours and when it comes your time, may you be through the pearly gates 30 minutes before the devil knows that you are gone.

Johnnie T. Watson, USN, RET
3051 Goat Creek Road
Kerrville, Texas 78028
(512) 895-4207

☞ You'd win your bet! Your photo copies and patches were received by the museum and are on display. Space permitting I'll try to print them in the next issue. I will gladly print a "Locaters Column" for those people trying locate former shipmates, just drop me a line and you'll be published. Ed.





ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN
WILLIAM F. GANNON - SECRETARY/TREASURER
1245 - CUNNINGHAM AVE
ST CHARLES, MO, 63301

FORWARDING & RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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