

POST CONVENTION 2008

THE ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN

The Red Shirt

<http://aaoweb.org/AAO>

ISSUE #107

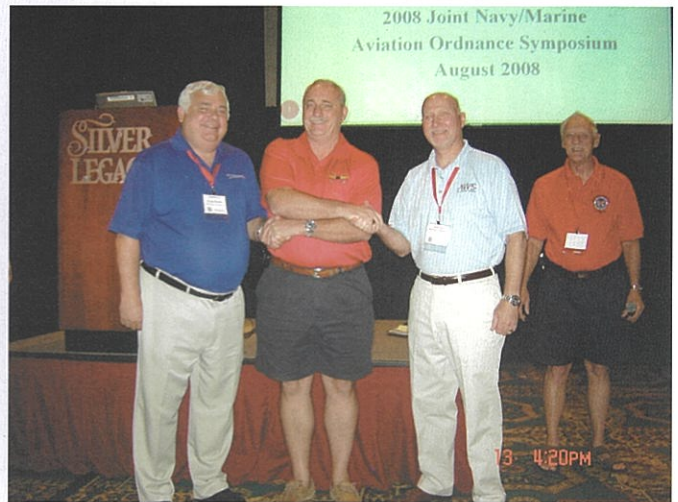


Peace Through Power - We Are The "ARMS" Of The Fleet

Mid



Raytheon Representatives with CAPT Dave Lepard



CAPT Dave Lepard Thanking Northrop Grumman and Raytheon for their generous contributions to the scholarship fund. Ed Scott, President AOAOEF.



Northrop Grumman Representative with CAPT Dave Lepard



AOAOEF Board Members



CAPT Jeffery Penfield, PMA-259, presenting the AMRAAM Outstanding Performer Award to AO1 Kyle Tuggle from Strike Fighter Weapons School Atlantic during the Joint Air to Air ILSMT in Tucson, AZ.



From left to right: Front row: CWO4 Ed Pirando, Mr. Dale Crabtree MAJ Dana Fike, CWO4 Carlos Lobo Back row: Lt Joe Thompson, GySgt Peter Graham



**The Association of
Aviation Ordnancemen**
[Http://aaoweb.org/AAO](http://aaoweb.org/AAO)

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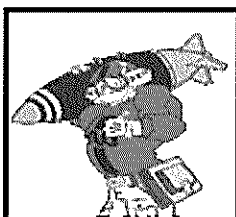
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MOVING?

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



CHAPTER MEETINGS - PLACES - TIMES - DATES

Chapter 1 - Lemoore, CA
President: LCDR Kevin Dowd
559-998-0880
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 Larry Hill
760-939-5430
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 Kathleen Marachi
619-545-8451
Fleet Reserve, Chula Vista
1st Thursday, 1900

Chapter 9 - Jacksonville, FL
President: AO1 Michael Steckley
904-542-5568
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 Edeneffield
775-423-8893 ????
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 Chris Miller
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 Shiela Brown
On Board

Chapter Key West,
Southern Most President: AO2 Tim Carlisle
305-294-2892
Navigator Bar and Grill NAS Key West, FL
2nd Friday, 1300

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

Dear Mr. Meagher,
I located Loran Kennedy's name through the online version of your post holiday 2008 newsletter. He is listed as a new member. Can you help me get in touch with him? He is my godson. I lost touch with his mom, Kit, years ago when he was still a toddler, because we moved around a lot. I would very much like to see them again. They have been on my heart all these years. It is only through the wonders of the Internet that I've been able to find him, and I learned that his father has passed on. I regret that I never had the chance to see Butch again. I don't want to make the same mistake with Kit and Loran. Can you at least forward this email to him?

I live outside of Atlanta. My son is almost his age and is a programmer with my website company. I also have another son who is studying to be a classical pianist.

Please tell him "Chus." I probably spelled that wrong, but that will let him know I'm authentic.

Sincerely,
Patricia Meek
Patricia Meek [pmeek@langineer.com]

Kevin,
My name is G.B. Hart, AOC retired. I got my copy of the Red Shirt today and saw the name of an old friend of mine was on the Life Membership list.
His name is Bob Yates. We were stationed together in Jacksonville Fla. many years ago and I have wondered where he was now. I wondered if you could give me his address, that I might contact him.
If not perhaps you could pass my address onto him.
My mailing address is: G.B. Hart, 673 Bethune Drive, Va. Beach Va. 23452. And my email address is gnh1155@aol.com
Thank you for your help.

Glenn

Editor,

As I do each time the Red Shirt arrives at my house out here in rural Oklahoma I sit down and read it cover to cover. Approaching my thirteenth year of retirement from Fallon, Naval Air Station on 24 June 1995 after thirty years of service, no other article, or photos has ever touched me as did those on page 26 sent in by Master Chief Shipley. It reaffirms that tight bond, the brotherhood that I miss the most out here in the civilian world. To all who were instrumental in making Chief Eberhart's final wish come true I can only say "Job Well" done Chiefs. Welcome aboard AOC David Eberhart. Welcome aboard Chief.

My prayers are with Chief Eberhart's family during this trying time. I am sure that the ceremony brought joy into their lives as much as it did for him. We all need to keep him and his family in our prayers.

Yesterday was history,
Tomorrow is a mystery,
But today, today is a gift;
That is why it is called a present.

On that day, that today you gave AOC Eberhart and his family a gift, a present worth more than you can ever know. But I think you already know that. God Bless you all.

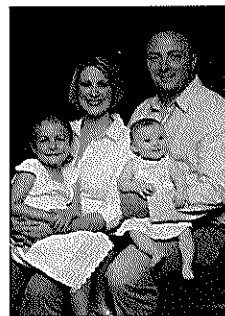
Jerry Copple (AOCM/AW)
Oktaha, Oklahoma

Jerryokie62@aol.com

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



Lindsey Loomis



Hillary Robbins



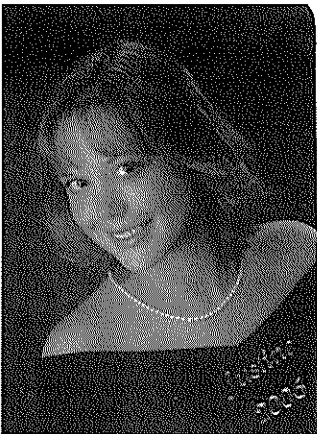
Dear AO Association Scholarship Committee:

Thank you so much for selecting me as one of the recipients of the 2008 Raytheon Scholarship. Through the generosity of Raytheon and the Aviation Ordnance Association, I was able to

purchase necessary school books and make a sizeable contribution toward purchasing a laptop computer, something I had previously been unable to afford.

Once again, my family and I both would like to thank everyone who made this possible.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Parmley



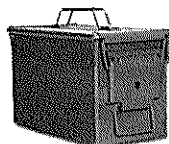
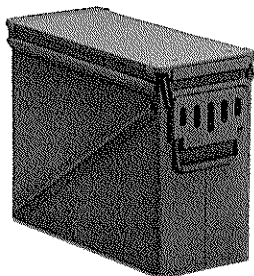
To the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Educational Foundation Selection Committee,

I cannot thank you enough for the scholarship money you have graciously bestowed upon me. This money will allow me to save more money for graduate school and focus more on my studies instead of worrying as much about mounting student loans. I am very grateful for receiving a

Robert L. Crow Scholarship and it makes me feel as though my hard work is already paying off.

These scholarships are an immense help to those who are lucky enough to receive one and I just want to say what a wonderful program this is. This program really makes a difference in the lives of the scholarship recipients and helps encourage the pursuit of higher education. Again, I cannot thank you enough.

Sincerely,
Justine B. Crutchfield
Stevenson University (Formerly Villa Julie College)



Dear Association of Aviation Ordnancemen members, scholarship contributors and scholarship committee members,

It is such an incredible honor to receive the Robert L. Crow scholarship. I am very grateful to receive such an honorable award from the association. It is an amazing feeling to be selected, and I want to thank the association for helping myself, as

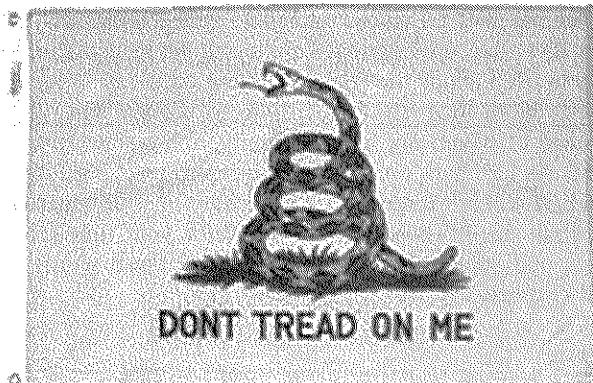
well as others, through the educational foundation scholarships. Gaining an education can be quite a financial challenge, especially with the economy today. I have attended the convention several times, and I have seen the numerous members of the association purchasing items at the auction or making selfless donations. Thank you to all who have contributed over the years. Without your donation, these scholarships would not be possible. The camaraderie between AO's is amazing. I am truly blessed to be an AO's wife, and part of the entire AO family.

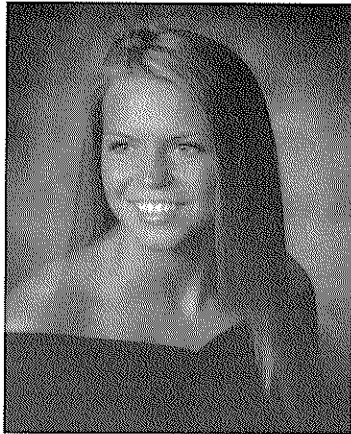
I am happy to announce that I have applied to graduate at the end of this semester. As of December 19, 2008, I will have my Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from California State University, Fresno. I will receive this diploma with Summa Cum Laude (highest honors) recognition. Currently, my leadership hours are being spent in an underserved hospital in the emergency department. Upon completion of school, my intentions are to work full time and continue with my education. I will apply for the Master's program, which is scheduled to begin next Fall.

Thank you again for your generous scholarship. The funds will greatly decrease the financial stress placed on my family, and will allow me to continue on with my education.

Sincerely,

Terri Lindsey
Wife of AOC David Lindsey





To the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Committee.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Aviation Ordnancemen Educational Selection Committee for selecting me to receive one of this year's four Raytheon Corporate Scholarship Awards. The financial aid provided by this Award through the Association

and Raytheon will greatly aid in furthering my education and relieving my financial burden.

I moved into James Madison University on August 20th and I have already attended my first week of classes. I plan on majoring in Media Arts and Design and attaining a minor in French. After living here for only a week, I can already tell that I am going to be very happy attending James Madison for at least another three years. Thank you so much for this opportunity and I greatly appreciate this Award. Maybe one day you will see me national television working as a broadcast journalist.

Sincerely,
Megan Harman



To The Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Educational Foundation:

Throughout the inevitable changes, the happiness and sorrows of the world, our successes as a society are undoubtedly owed to the generations that continue to inspire and nourish the ambitions of those to come.

While today I profoundly thank you for the opportunity this scholarship will provide, I intend to spend tomorrow, and every day after, proving that I am worth the investment. My goals in life include the cliché of living each day to its fullest, but more importantly, I inspire to be, and always be, someone of whom my friends, family, and country may be proud. As I embark on my next adventure teaching English in Italy, I will not forget that it is because of your generosity that I am there. Thank you so much for your time, confidence, and support. It is a gratitude that these words can barely express.

Sincerely,
Meghan Robins



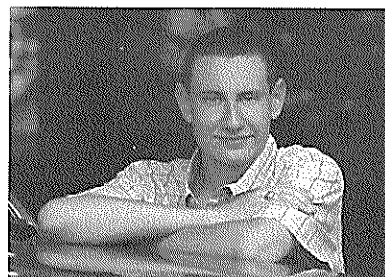
I am honored to be a recipient of the 2008 Robert L. Crow Scholarship Award given by The Association of Aviation Ordnancemen specifically, because he served admirably in the United States Navy for thirty years. I would like to thank the members of the association for their kindness and for making this scholarship possible.

I have just begun my freshman year at Liberty University, where I plan on pursuing a degree in Biology. I one day hope to be a dentist, sharing my love of helping others feel good about themselves. I also plan on volunteering at a dental office during my studies.

My parents have always stressed the importance of education and the value of a college degree. I hope to one day share my experiences with other students and to help prepare them for success in college.

Once again, I want to thank you for making this scholarship possible and for all the generous donations. I plan on representing God, my family and the military community in a positive manner and to give to other people as you have given to me.
Sincerely,

Martika T. Morgan



To the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen,

I would like to sincerely thank all of the members of the Association for sponsoring such a worthy cause. With this prestigious scholarship, I will be

continuing my second year at Old Dominion University where I am enrolled full-time in the pursuit of a Criminal Justice degree. Thanks to the generosity of all of the members and to Raytheon Corporation, I am able to stay committed to completing my education without having to worry about working when I could be studying. Again, I really appreciate your continued faith in education and I look forward to college resuming soon.

Sincerely,
Karl Swygert



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.

Editor,
I saw AOCM Ralph Hanlon's name in a recent Red Shirt obituary. He was really quite a guy & I'm sure his family misses him terribly.

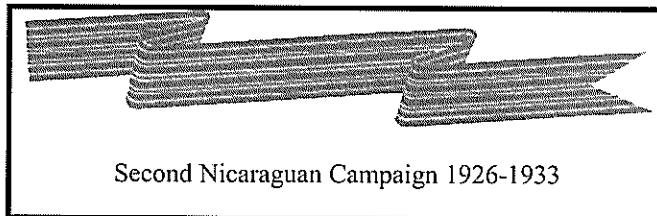
I relieved Ralph as the Ordnance & Leading Chief of CVW-15 in the summer of '75, just before he went on the retired list. Along with all the other things he'd done over the years, including five cruises in six years on the Coral Sea, he flew as a Gunner in World War II & was very good at telling sea stories. One, I'll never forget...

Ralph told us of flying a mission over the Japanese Battle Ship 'Yamato' as she was clearing Tokyo Bay following a yard period. If Yamato made it out to sea, the US Fleet would be in real jeopardy. With good intelligence the US fleet was ready for her as she got underway, so the attack was on. Yamato's crew was still in whites following quarters for getting underway as she was nailed and nailed hard. As the ship was rolling bottom side up, the crew followed her over. Their white uniforms stood out really well against the red-lead paint on her bottom.

One of our guys asked him, "Did you strafe 'em"? Ralph simply said, "No, they had enough problems already".

I asked Ralph what he would do when he retired in San Diego... He told me that he'd do what he'd always wanted to do -- take piano lessons. As Ralph's fingers were only a bit smaller than bowling pins, I always wondered how that worked out...

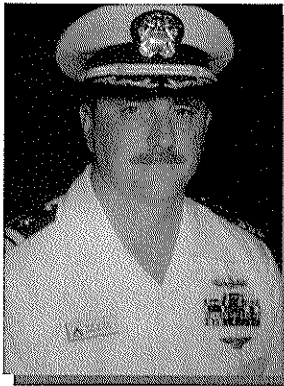
Bob Holdman



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AAO President



Greetings All,
I hope you all had a wonderful summer and that you were able to enjoy it. Let me tell you the Association certainly had another outstanding Convention in Reno this year. My hat is off to all that played a part in pulling off one of our best gatherings. As many of you know the past several years we combined the Aviation Ordnance Officer's Symposium and then rolled right into the Convention,

the arrangement seems to be working very nice and I look forward to that continued partnership. This year we were honored by having three very distinguished Navy Admirals join us in Reno, and they all provided us with their leadership view points on Naval Aviation and of course their view point on the Aviation Ordnance community's way ahead. Those of us in attendance heard their message clearly. Admirals Goodwin, Shannon and Dunaway we all thank you for taking time out your very busy schedules to spend some time with us.

As you will see in this REDSHIRT we Selected at our various boards on Friday, the Hall of Fame inductee's, our Scholarship winners, and of course the LT John W. Finn Aviation Ordnancemen of the Year. CONGRATULATIONS to you all. I would like to say a special thanks to RADM Dunaway and to his lovely bride, thank you for honoring the Association at the Award's dinner on Saturday night; you truly made our evening complete with your kind words. And you certainly amazed the gathering by being able to call half way around the world to inform the winner of his selection as the 2008 Aviation Ordnancemen of the Year.

Thanks to our membership for keeping the Association very strong and viable, and remember to support your local Chapter's at any events they are holding or conducting. I would be remiss if I did not say a word about our Marines and Sailors that are on the front of this Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). Us back home are so very proud of you and all that you're doing. Please be safe, remember do it by the book. We all look forward to your speedy return. Pat and I look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

Very respectfully, CAPT David H. Lepard



AAO Vice President

Wow, another convention is in the history book. I don't know how Chuck Onken and Jim Thomas keep doing it but they just keep making each one the best. I would like to thank AO2 Reid, President Chapter 21, and his committee who did an outstanding job assisting us with this year's convention. Thanks to our Guest Speaker Rear Admiral David A. Dunaway for his outstanding speech at the dinner. If you weren't there you missed an inspiring speech by one of our great Leaders of the Military. During the Awards Dinner Admiral Dunaway announced AO1 (AW/SW) Kenneth M. Davis for John W. Finn AO of the Year award, he also announces AO1 (AW/SW) Jeffery A. Cogswell this Year Runner Up... I'm sure that big and better things are in the future for both of the awardees. One of the highlights of the Awards Dinner was after Admiral Dunaway made the announcement for the AO of the year Capt Dave Lepard and Admiral Dunaway made a call to Davis's ship to congratulate him. Chuck Onken announced that AOCM, USN, Retired John J (J J) LaMaitre, AOCM, USN, Retired and AOC Robert (Bob) Underwood were inducted into the AO Hall of Fame. Cdr Rick Garza announced that Justine Crutchfield, Terri Lindsey and Mertika Morgan were winners of the AO Robert L Crow Scholarship Award. Also announced was the winner of the Northrup/Gruman Scholarship award to Lindsey Loomis. Raytheon Missile System Scholarship awards were provided to Hillary Robins, Jennifer Parmley, Karl Swyget and Megan Harman. Welcome back to the Board of Directors CWO4, Retired, Rob Walecki. Welcome aboard to the Board of Directors AOCS Ken Clasen. I also want to thank AOC, Retired Al Castro for all his years of service as a Board of Directors. J J LaMaitre was reelected by unanimous consent for his third term as Treasure.

I cannot miss an opportunity to talk about the Membership. Membership with paid-up dues has held steady this year while our lifetime membership has grown. I would like to thank all the Chapter personnel who are responsible for a great year of recruiting. Don't forget to use the first time reenlistment free membership when one of our young sailors reenlists and take advantage of the two year for \$25.00 option. If you see a shipmate that seems interested in the Association, get him/her to the local meeting and get him/her involved. Thanks again for all those members that are out there working to bring in our new members. I would like to ask the membership if they know of someone who has dropped their membership please try to get that individual back in the Association. We have several hundred past members that we don't have a current address for so if they were a member and transferred we may have lost them because of not giving us their new address. Please if you move let the Treasure know what your new address is!!!! Next year's convention will be at Silver Legacy in Reno, NV, 12 to 17 August 2008. Rooms are at exceptionally good rates of \$67.00 Sun-Thru and \$92.00 Fri-Sun. The Silver Legacy is a top-notch hotel so get your reservation in early. When registering for 2007 convention the code will be AAO8. The Senior Aviation Ordnancemen Leadership will be holding their Symposium starting the 10th

(Continued on page 9)



AAO Secretary

AAO Treasurer

Greetings Ordies,

Convention was awesome this year; those of you that couldn't attend missed a top-notch production. Special thanks to Jim & Carolyn Thomas, Joe and Delores Manly and Chuck and Beverley Onken.

Congrats to the following who were selected to AOC

AOC - CHIEF AVIATION ORDNANCEMAN

ACKERMAN WILL	ARREDONDO RAM	BAKER CHRISTO
BANDA DANIEL	BATES JAMES A	BENJAMIN FRED
BERRIMAN JUST	BETHEL LAMONT	BICKEL ERIC K
BOSTIC WILLIE	BOYLE BRAD WI	BRIGANCE DANN
BURKEN GREGOR	CAIN DOUGLAS	CARLO JEREMY
CAUDLE RONNIE	CHURCH TIMOTH	COBLE JOHN KE
COGSWELL JEFF	COLE RODNEY S	COX TERRY BRU
COX WESLEY NE	DECHICK TIMOT	DEKARSKE SARA
DELACRUZ JOSE	DESMET GREGOR	DONHAM CLINTO
DURIO PHILLIP	EARLEY MAURIC	ECHAURY JOSE
ELIAS DANIEL	ENGLEMAN JASO	EVANS EDREAL
EWING PRENTIC	FEISE CRAIG R	FERRELL WYATT
FIELDS JOHN S	FOSTER TERESA	FUDGE THOMAS
GIPSON LESTER	GIVENS JEFFRE	GRAHAM JOHN E
GRANDPRE CASE	HAMPTON BRYAN	HAYDEN ROGER
HEATH ROBERT	HODGSON THOMA	HOHBACH JOSHU
HUTCHENS TIMO	IRWIN JAMES L	JACKSON LEWIS
JAMES JOSEPH	KELLY TIMOTHY	KILGORE PATRI
KIMSEY ROBERT	KNESS ERIN LA	KNOPP NATHAN
LANHART MICHA	LARSEN JASON	LAYSON TRACEY
MACALMA PORFI	MALMSTROM JAS	MARTIN REGINA
MILLER CHRIST	MOORE THOMAS	NAZARIO CHRIS
NEWSON PHILLI	OLIVER TERRY	PEREZ FRANK J
PETWAY ANTHO	POSTMA PHILIP	POTEAT STEVEN
RIEGER ROBERT	ROBINETT CHAR	ROBINSON DANT
ROBINSON DUAN	ROLINCE CHRIS	ROSS TERRY DA
RUTLEDGE SCOT	SAATHOFF RALP	SALAS RODOLFO
SAMUELS ELSTO	SANDERS MICHA	SCHLARMAN DAV
SHAW JEFFERY	SHEA BENJAMIN	SIMMONS ANTHO
SIMPSON THOMA	SKVORETZ BRIA	SMITH CARL AN
SMITH DERRICK	SMITH EDRICK	SNIDER CAREY
STEWART MICHA	STOUT SCOTT A	SULLIVAN WILL
TENORIO ANTHO	TILMON TANYA	TUCKER MARK A
VERGARA ROBER	WALKER AHMAD	WATKINS CARLO
WESOLOWSKI AN	WILLER ROBERT	WILLIAMS MICH
WORLEY DONALD	YOUMANS JENNY	ZINK JOHN ALL

Dennis Costa
AAO Secretary
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Coronado Ca 92118

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

CONVENTION – We had over 500 folks in the house between the Symposium and Convention. There is no way we could have this on a year in and year out basis without a lot of help. THANKS to all who made it happen and for the assist.

THANK YOU to the membership for re-electing me to the office of Treasurer. It is indeed an honor to serve YOU the membership. Will probably turn the office over in 3 years, so if you are up to a challenge and want to give back to this great Association, see me and I will tell you all about it. Main things you need are space at home, time, and more importantly the drive to get the multiple irons in and out of the fire on a regular basis.

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 aaotreas@cox.net.

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

Lastly, what an HONOR to be selected into the Association's Hall of Fame. I am indeed humbled by the honor. THANK YOU.

Until next time IYAOYAS.
JJ LaMaitre

(Continued from page 8)

of August. I have raised my hand to be the Site Chairman again. Chuck Onken and Jim Thomas and I have already started planning a great convention. Don't forget to register early as it is the key to a successful convention.

As the Chairman of the nomination committee I will be taking nominations for the following positions for next years elections; **President**, (Capt Dave Lepard), **two Board of Directors** (Rick Garza and Brenda Cotter). If you have a nomination for any of these positions, the formal nominations must be received by me on or before **01 May 2009**. Along with the nomination a written letter of acceptance from the nominee is required. Letters of nominations will be posted in the Red Shirt prior to the convention.

Press On
Joe Manley



From the desk of the Chaplain;

Greetings Fellow Ordies;

Well, the convention is over for another and already plans are being laid for next year. There was a lot of information passed, the renewal of old relationships and the making of new friends was invaluable. This year was the greatest I can remember. Let's all start planning to attend next year.

Last year was very busy for me, and I'm sorry to say this year is starting out the same way. We have had to say farewell to several shipmates already. I am also aware of several others who are in less than good health. Let us all remember to include them in our daily prayer regimen. Also let us to continually keep in our prayers our brothers and sisters in arms who are so unselfishly giving their best effort for our great nation. That not only applies to Ordnancemen but to all services. We need to support all branches of the Armed Forces. And while we are at it we must include the families of those serving. "They also serve who stand and wait." May hardship and danger pass by their doors.

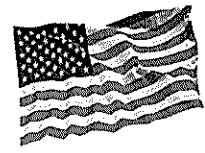
If any of you know of a shipmate (active or retired) please try to at least send them a card or an e-mail. And while you are at it drop me an e-mail, a phone call or drop me a card or letter with their name and address. That way I can also contact them.

The presidential election is fast approaching, don't forget to get out and vote. After all that is just one of the freedoms we are all have fought so hard to protect. I will not even pretend to suggest how you vote. Just vote for who you think will do the best for the country as a whole.

I am including this again because I feel it is important. Red Shirt Friday is starting to catch on all around the nation. 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

AOCS Richard 'Dick' (Max) Factor USN Ret.
 AOC Jerry A. Williams USN Ret.
 * AOC Darwin L. Barber
 LCDR Marion K. Nelson USN Ret.
 *AOC Johnie D. Bobbitt
 AOC Hugh Hanna USN Ret. (Plankowner)
 *AOC Charles W. Callahan
 AOC Ernie C. Forehand USN Ret.
 AOC (AW/SW) Dave R. Eberhart
 AVCM William F. 'Bill' Long USN Ret.
 Lillian A. Lechwar
 William O. Lowe
 *AOC Lee A. Gripp
 *AOI William R. Wilt
 *AOC Harry E. Eagan
 AOC Mike Hensen USN Ret
 * Info from FRA Today Newsletter

Red Shirt Articles

are due

20 JAN 09

20 MAY 09

20 SEP 09

*Please submit via e-mail
when possible*





**ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION
ORDNANCEMEN
2008 GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
MINUTES**

David Lepard, President, called the 2008 Association of Aviation Ordnancemen General Business Meeting to order at 0803, 16 August 2008, 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 71 **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. Disapproved name change from the P'Cola Chapter to CHAPTER 34, the U.S.S. Oriskany Chapter.
- b. Approved the standardization Chapter BY-LAWS Template for all Chapters By-Laws.
- c. Approved the AAOEF By-Laws change
- d. Approved the Procedures for absentee voting and Absentee Ballot.
- e. Approved the FY08-09 Budget Proposal.

Dennis Costa, Secretary, reported that the minutes of the 2007 General Business Meeting was published in Red Shirt #104 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 2007 General Business Meeting Minutes as published. Without objection the motion was passed. The 2007 General Business Minutes are enclosure (2) to these minutes.

The Treasurer then gave the Financial Report. Copies of the 2008/2009 Approved Budget and 2007/2008 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 2008/2009 approved Budget is enclosure (3) to these minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2008 Convention Committee, Joe Manley –

As the site Chairman of the 2008 Convention we are having another great success with the help and outstanding hard work of JJ LaMaitre, Dennis Costa, AO2 Nick Reed, Chapter 21 President and his crew of Chapter 21 members, and of course the ever hard working, never seems to run out of energy, Jim and Carolyn Thomas. We have a total of 354 Registered guests from 8-11-80 thru 08-17-08 at Silver Legacy. We also have 213 attending the social and 210 attending the Awards dinner. We have a number of exhibitors along with Chapters selling their chapter goodies in the exhibitor's room.

2009 Convention Committee, Joe Manley Co-Site Chairman –

The Symposium & Convention will be held at the Silver Legacy, Reno, NV from 10-17 August 2009. Room rates are at exceptionally good rates of 67.00 Sun-Thur. and 92.00 Fri-Sat. The Silver Legacy is a top-notch hotel and this should be another good one. Get your reservation in early. The senior Aviation Ordnanceman leadership is going to hold their symposium 10-14 Aug 2009. This will help get more active duty people to your convention.

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 2007</u>	<u>20 June 2008</u>
Dues Current	1060	1015
Life	668	726
Honorary	101	106
1 Yr Grace Period	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1829	1847

Address Unknown (these Numbers are included in the above figures)	1298	1301
Inactive Members	4856	4913

AO of the Year Committee, Digger O'Dell Chairman –

The committee considered 55 packages. He thanked all 16 members of the committee by name. The committee con-

(Continued on page 12)



(Continued from page 11)

sisted of 14 active duty, 2 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
2008

AO1 (AW/SW) KENNETH DAVIS

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN
JOHN W. FINN
AVIATION ORDNANCEMAN OF THE YEAR FOR
2008

Runner-Up

AO1 (AW/SW) Jeffery A. Cogswell

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

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN
AO HALL OF FAME SELECTEE'S FOR 2008

AOC ROBERT UNDERWOOD USN (RET)

AOCM JOHN "JJ" LaMAITRE USN (RET)

AOCM DENNIS A. COSTA 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 RE-UNION 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 –
Elections for position of two Board of Directors seats, Robert Walecki and Al Castro, Treasurer, John "JJ" LaMaitre will be held today. To date we have 2 for the Board of Directors seats and 1 for Treasurer. We will be taking nominations from the floor during the election. Absentee balloting seems to be working well. If you have a nomination get it in to Joe Manley early, don't wait until the last

minute to do this. Make sure the individual you are nominating accepts the position and responsibility of that job.

Absentee status – Joe Manley-

We had a total of 13 ballots received and had to invalidate 2 of them.

By-Laws Committee, Richard Grass 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. Transcribing to word the Association's Charter and its Amendment.
2. The Standardized Chapter Bylaws Template.
3. I.C. 1 to the Foundation's Bylaws.

We are currently working with Chapters 3, 22, and 76 on revising their Bylaws to meet the format and requirements contained in the Standardized Chapter Bylaws Template. When a Chapter completes their revision another Chapter will be chosen to start the process. Chapter 1 has completed the process.

Safety Committee, Dave Lepard–

We will make a concentrated effort to ensure that a member of the Weapons Safety team gives a proper brief next year.

Combined Federal Campaign Committee, Joe Manley –

I'm happy to report that on 14 April 2008 the AAOEF was accepted by CFC for 2008. This is indeed a great moment completing many years of efforts by a few members to finally gain admittance and to have our name listed under "National/International Independent Organizations" and our own donors' code of 12246. When the annual CFC is launched this year, each of you now has the opportunity to designate your desires and funds back to your AAOEF. Thanks to one and all for your efforts and support. Special thanks go 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. We will be starting our 2009 application soon after the convention.

AO Museum Committee, Dave Lepard –

Everything is on track; we have "A" School Students helping with the refurbishment of some of the older ordnance items. The Museum still has everything in line to have our own section..

Educational Foundation President – Ed Scott

The foundation has approved actions taken by the Board throughout the year as follows: approved the Reconciliation Review Procedures, Ethics and Conduct Policy, Whistle Blower Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy, Records Retention Policy, 2007 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, 2006/2007 Budget Expenditure Report, acceptance the 2006/2007 AAOEF Audit report from an outside agency,

(Continued on page 13)



(Continued from page 12)

AAOEF Bylaws sending to AAO Board for their approval (AAO Board approved changes), changes to the Instructions and Guidelines and Grading Selection Criteria, approved signing of the engagement letter between the Audit Firm and AAOEF for the FY 2007/2008 Audit, approved engagement letter between the CPA and the AAOEF for the preparation of the 2007 taxes, approved FY 2007/2008 Revised Budget, approved FY 2008/2009 Budget and, approved FY 2008/2009 Revised Budget. Approved Presidents appointments of Dennis Costa as interim Compliance Officer, Jeffery Sassone as Bylaws Committee Chairman; replacing Richard Grass who had submitted his resignation letter as Foundation By-laws committee chairman, CDR Rick Garza as Scholarship Selection Committee Chairman, and L. Joe Manly Foundation CFC Chairman. Approved the Scholarship Application for 2008 and updated 2008 application and the Foundation 2007/2008 Annual Report; copies available at back of room. He announced that the office open for election in 2009 is one seat on the Board of Directors; Don Howard. The 8 members of the selection committee reviewed 14 packages of which 3 additional were removed due to discrepancy prior to review. The ability to maintain the Scholarship Award at \$3,500 and the additional scholarship award of \$1,500 is due to the generosity of the Membership, and the continued support of our Chapters and the unfailing efforts of the Auxiliary. Through the generosity of Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding Company we were able to award a \$3,500 scholarship in their name; we were also able to award 4 \$1,000 scholarships in the name of Raytheon Missile System. The Winners were announced at the Awards banquet by CDR Rick Garza; Scholarship Selection Committee Chairman, and are presented here for the record.

**ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

**ROBERT L. CROW \$3,500.00 SCHOLARSHIP
WINNERS FOR 2008**

**Justine Crutchfield, Daughter of David Houck
Terri Lindsey, Spouse of David Lindsey
Martika Morgan, Daughter of Mercer Morgan**

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

Megan Robins, Granddaughter of Thomas Robins

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

Lindsey Loomis, Grand Daughter of Fred August

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

**Hillary Robins, Grand Daughter of Tom Robins
Jennifer Parmley, Daughter of Jason Parmley
Karl Swygert, Son of Stewart Swygert
Megan Harman, Daughter of James Harman**

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 newsletter to a magazine with full-page color sheets. Any ideas, pictures, questions please send them to me for inclusion to the next newsletter. He reminded all concern that he 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 –

Eleven members passed, one wife passed. Sympathy cards and letters of condolence were sent in all cases where there was sufficient information available. 6 honorary packages were either sent or delivered. AOI Peter Dow was a valuable resource in the case of AOC David Eberhart. He provided very useful information that would not have been available without an on the scene source. Many thanks to AOI Dow.

CHAPTER REPORTS

There are presently 23 active Chapters.

Chapter 1	NAS Lemoore, CA.	Gerald Gladders
Chapter 3	NAS Whidbey Island, WA.	Angla Sobenski
Chapter 4	Tidewater Area, VA.	No Report
Chapter 5	China Lake, CA.	Dennis Costa
Chapter 7	Pt. Mugu, CA.	Jake Scanlon
Chapter 8	San Diego, CA.	Al Teneyck
Chapter 9	Jacksonville, FL.	Dennis Patterson
Chapter 11	Kaneohe Bay, HI	David Lepard
Chapter 21	NAS Fallon, NV.	Joe Manley
Chapter 22	Patuxent River, MD	Ray Rowland
Chapter 39	Beaufort S.C	Del Tingley
Chapter 63	USS Kitty Hawk CV 63	Deployed
Chapter 65	USS Enterprise CVN 65	No Report
Chapter 68	USS Nimitz CVN 68	No Report
Chapter 70	USS Carl Vinson CVN 70	No Report
Chapter 72	USS Lincoln CVN 72	Tony Deigo
Chapter 74	USS Stennis CVN 74	No Report
Chapter 75	USS Truman CVN 75	No Report
Chapter 76	USS Ronald Reagan	George Johnson
CVW 5	CVW 5	Stan Gipson
Pensacola Chapter	Pensacola, FL.	Cory Wainscott
Desert/Southwest Chapter	El Centro, CA.	Steve Greer
Key West	Key West	No Report
Auxiliary		Delores Manley

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

OLD BUSINESS

(Continued on page 14)



(Continued from page 13)

None

NEW BUSINESS

2009 Convention Committee, Jim Thomas Co-Site Chairman

The Symposium & Convention will be held at the Silver Legacy, Reno, NV from 10-17 August 2009. More to follow in the Red Shirt newsletter. Members who would like a tour of the Grand Expo spaces down below please see Jim Thomas who will arrange tours. Rates will be \$67.00 (Sun-Thu) and \$92.00 (Fri & Sat). The Mid-Year planning conference will be held at the Tropicana Express in Laughlin NV from 15-20 January 2009. 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 Treasurer.

Election was held for the office of Treasurer, position held by John “JJ” LaMaitre.

The Nominee is

John “JJ” LaMaitre

There being only one nomination for the office of Treasurer, **John “JJ” LaMaitre was re-elected** by unanimous consent to serve as Treasurer, term to expire 2011

Election was held for the Board of Directors position held by Robert Walecki.

The nominees were:

Robert Walecki

There being only one nomination for the office of Board of Director, **Robert Walecki was re-elected** by unanimous consent to serve as Board of Directors, term to expire 2011

Election was held for the Board of Directors position held by Al Castro.

The nominees were:

Ken Clasen

There being only one nomination for the office of Board of Director **Ken Clasen was elected** by unanimous consent to serve on the Board of Directors, term to expire 2011.

The General Membership elected Mr. Jim Deal as an honorary member.

During the convention the following Chapters and individu-

als made contributions to the Scholarship Fund:

- Tom Wordinger \$25
- James & Julie Bryant \$50
- Rod McDonald \$100
- Darrell Elder \$20
- Chapter 1 \$200
- Chapter 7 \$400
- Chapter 21 \$175
- Chapter 39 \$1,000
- Chapter 76 \$200
- Key West Chapter \$250
- Chapter 9 \$1,050 (in memory of Floyd English)
- Fines \$20
- Susan Cox \$250
- George Nehr \$50
- Tom & Ann Robins \$500
- Auxiliary \$6,945
- Chapter 5 \$300
- Chapter 8 \$250
- Chapter 22 \$260
- Chapter 74 \$800
- Pensacola Chapter \$1,500

Total contribution for 2008 is \$14,345

The President announced that next year’s Symposium & Convention will be held at the Silver Legacy, Reno, NV from 10-17 August 2009. Pre-registration will be a real key for the success of all the planned activities at this convention. The 2009 convention Site Chairman is Joe Manley.

The President called for any more input from the floor.

The President recapped the week’s events and announced that daily there were 303 who attend the symposium, plus the carry over is sitting out in the business meeting. He asked all to look into staying for the convention to help be part of the convention and Association.

A moment of silence was held for Jerald Carr, David Eberhart, Richard Factor, Bill Long, Marion Nelson, William Rex, Jack Swartz and Jerry Williams 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 2008 General Business Meeting of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen at 1107, 16 July 2008.

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

Submitted by: Approved by:

Dennis Costa Secretary	David H. Lepard President
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AOOCP, Whiting Field, FL

Greetings from the campus of Ordnance University located on Naval Air Station Whiting Field, in beautiful Milton, Florida. Aviation Ordnance Officer Career Progression (AOOCP) is a unique opportunity offered to all senior leadership, both Navy and Marine Corp, who work in the Aviation Ordnance field. AOOCP offers 3 levels of training tailored specifically to meet the needs and enhance the knowledge level of all students. The AOOCP school house has been a part of the Navy and Marine Corps Aviation Ordnancemen community for many years and the commitment to education excellence and teamwork has only gotten stronger with each passing year. There has been a turnover of staff at AOOCP in the past few months. Mr. John Sweeney, LtCol, USMC (Ret), an icon at Ordnance University who has been with AOOCP since it's conception in 1993 retired in December 2007. Mr. Sweeney, on behalf of all the sailors and marines you have educated and befriended over the years, we sincerely wish you and your family the very best in retirement and thank you so very much for all you have done for the Aviation Ordnance community. You may be gone from the school house but you will never be forgotten. Mr. Dale Crabtree, LtCol, USMC (Ret) has assumed the duties as instructor and technical advisor to AOOCP.

We bid fair winds and following seas to AOCM Freeman and AOCM Wilson and wish them and their families all the best with retirement. MAJ Dana Fike, USMC, assumed the duties as Director of AOOCP in May 2008. MAJ Fike and his staff of Navy and Marine Corps Officers/CWO's and Staff NCO's are eager to have you attend an AOOCP course. The FY 2009 class convening dates for all 3 Levels of instruction was recently released via Naval Message. AOOCP has its own web site which provides all the information needed to enroll and attend any and all AOOCP classes and useful information to prepare you for your trip to and stay at AOOCP. The website address is: www.netc.navy.mil/centers/cnatt/cnatt_det_milton/aooep/default.cfm

The website also has contact information for all the instructors at AOOCP and you are all encouraged to email or call with any questions you may have. Aviation Ordnance Officer Career Progression (AOOCP) Ordnance University is OUR school. We are very fortunate to have a school house designed and specified for Navy and Marine Corp Ordnancemen and we invite and encourage all who serve this great nation by being apart of the team who puts weapons on target, to come and attend a AOOCP class. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Joe Thompson,
LT USN
Assistant Director AOOCP
(850) 623-7897 ext 35

Chapter 3

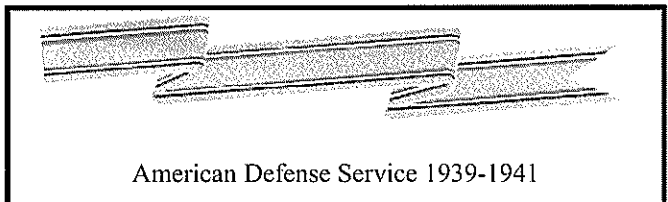
JOHN W. FINN COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS

Are still available. They are signed by John and there are a few low numbers in the 100's still for sale. They make great gifts for Promotion, Retirements, Birthdays, or any other Special occasions for an "Ordie" or their family. The value continues to increase because they are .999 silver, serialized, and a limited addition. The cost is \$75 which includes Priority shipping and Insurance.

To order:
Send email to bj@galaxy.net

Mail checks or money order to:

BJ O'Dell
1584 Eagle Haven Way
Oak Harbor, WA 98277



American Defense Service 1939-1941

COVER & BACK PAGE

U.S. Medal of Honor recipients, from top left, retired Marine Cpl. Hershel 'Woody' Williams, retired Army 1st Lt. Vernon J. Baker, retired Army Staff Sgt. Walter D. Ehlers, retired Army 1st Lt. Charles Patrick Murray Jr., from bottom left, retired Army 2nd Lt. Van T. Barfoot, retired Navy Lt. John Finn, and retired Marine Pfc. Arthur Jackson aboard the USS Midway Museum, May 24, 2008, where they received the museum's Midway American Patriot Award. U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Jennifer R. Hudson

080524-N-6999H-057 SAN DIEGO (May 24, 2008) Honorary guest and one of seven Medal of Honor recipients. Lt. (ret) John Finn is presented with the Midway American Patriot Award and The National World War II Museum's American Spirit Award by Adm. Timothy J. Keating, commander of U.S. Pacific Command during a black-tie gala, "Beyond the Call of Duty," aboard the USS Midway Museum. At age 98, Finn is the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient and is also the only living Pearl Harbor Medal of Honor recipient. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jennifer R. Hudson (Released)



Chapter 74

Hello fellow Ordies. Wow, where did the summer go? This was the first summer that JOHN C STENNIS had been in Homeport since coming to the Great Northwest. It was been great being able to enjoy the "dry and sunny" summer with family and friends.

We would like to congratulate a few of our chapter members: AOC Desmet and AOC Knopp on their recent Pinning to Chief Petty Officer. Way to go guys! Also, we would like to recognize AO1(AW/SW) Sherwin for his nomination to represent JOHN C STENNIS as the John Finn Aviation Ordnanceman of the Year. His tireless contributions to both this chapter (past V.P.) and the entire Weapons Department have been immeasurable in all our successes. Great job AO1!

JOHN C. STENNIS just turned over OHO's. We would like to welcome back LCDR Greer and say good-bye to LCDR Maxwell. OHO Maxwell did an awesome job here and we wish him all the best on his well deserved shore duty. Our LCPO, AOCM Falls, is headed off to Millington to become our new AO Head Detailer. Master Chief, thanks for all you did for the Sailors in this great department and we wish you nothing but the best! Lastly, our QAO/G-4/A-OHO, LT Mike Klaphake, finally decided to take a break from ship's company life and headed off to Kadena for some nice shore duty too. Mike was our Mr. Everything around here and will be sorely missed.

In August the chapter held a fund raising car wash at A&W Root Beer in Port Orchard. We had about 30 folks come out to help and the event was a huge success. In September, we held an End of Summer Family Picnic at the Trident Lakes on Naval Base Bangor. Of course we had to pick the only day of the summer it decided to rain! Despite the rain, the guys put up the giant slide; actually it became more of a "slip n slide", for all the kids and a few adults to enjoy. A good time was had by all.

Operationally, the department went through two maintenance availabilities this summer and sent 30 Ordies down to NAS Fallon to support CVW-9. Thanks to all the folks in Fallon for supporting us. As you read this article, we should be in the mist of our last training exercises prior to our upcoming deployment.

All right folks, that is it for this article. Again, we hope everyone had a nice summer and now it is time to start thinking about the holidays. Keep those membership drives alive! I.Y.A.O.Y.A.S.

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

CVW-5 Chapter

"America's 9-1-1 Ordies"

The Ordies of Chapter CVW-5 are back!!! Like a sleeping giant that has just awakened, expect big things to come out of this Chapter.

We recently crossed over from the USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63) to the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) during an unexpected port-of-call in San Diego after the devastating fire suffered by GW. It was a long journey, with our schedule constantly changing and being slid to the right. We will miss the Kitty but the GW has welcomed us with open arms and we look forward to the future endeavors onboard the first ever forward deployed nuclear aircraft carrier.

The AO's of Chapter CVW-5 have participated in numerous events this year including a SFARP detachment in Guam, the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise and the hull turnover in North Island, CA. We have dropped, shot and delivered down range an impressive amount of ordnance this year, totaling over 846,000 pounds. We have slowed down a little waiting on the new fiscal year to roll around but come October, we'll be back in our AOR and back to business as usual.

Our initial elections were recently held and the following individuals were voted into office:

- President: AO1(AW) Cory A. Hester
- Vice President: AO1(AW) Robert Curtis
- Secretary: AO2(AW) Trevor A. Simones
- Treasurer: AO1(AW) Marvin Richardson
- Board of Directors: AO1(AW) Gregory S. Worman
AO1(AW) Robert L. Sorensen
AO2(AW) Brett C. Hernandez
AOAN Andre P. Megie
AOAN James R. Warnhoff

Rest assured that the ordies out here are one tight group. Regardless of what the cranial says, we are all one team. In fact, we live by "One Team, One Direction".

Now, with our Chapter back up and running we can and will grow even bigger and stronger.

Sincerely,
Your Brothers and Sisters of the Forward Deployed Naval Forces... IYAOYAS...



SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTORS

The Association

Raytheon
Chapter 1
Chapter 7
Chapter 21
Chapter 39
Chapter 76
Key West Chapter
Phyllis Terzich (in memory of Tony Terzich)
Margaret M. Dunn
AO1 Chuck & Jane Thomas USN Ret.
CWO2 Carl & Sandy Fargon USN Ret.
AOOCM Don & Lisa Shirley USN Ret.
AOC Noel & Edwina Bankston USN Ret.
AOOCM Donald & Thelma Sanders USN Ret.
George & Uta Nehr
Tom & Ann Robins
Ron & Susan Jerasa
Peggy Dunn
AO1(AW) Misty & Neil Becker
John & Patricia Marti
AOOCM Richard Hastings USN Ret.
AMH1 Pete & Joan Ronbeck USN Ret.
Mary K. Feldman
Rick & Pam Nelson
Ronald & Cindy Brigham
AOOC(AW/SW) Christopher & Shawna Hathaway
AOOCM(AW/SW) Michael & Robin Varela
AOOCM Frank & Donna Parker USN Ret. -
30 Consecutive Years!!!

The Auxiliary

Northrop Grumman
Chapter 5
Chapter 8
Chapter 22
Chapter 74
Pensacola Chapter
Chapter 9 (in memory of Floyd English)
Jackie Rice
LT Jason & Julie Parnley
CWO4 Ed & Jessie Pirando Jr.
Robert & Denise Tom
Bruce A. Kaiser
William & Audrey Weidenheimer
AOC Thomas & Brenda Richards USN Ret.
Rod McDonald
Darrell Elder
Talton & Janeva Gilbert
AOC William & Teresa Ake USN Ret.
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CWO4 Harold & Shirley Henson USN Ret.
CWO4 Robert & Kathy Petrus USN Ret.
LCDR Edward & Ann Budway USN Ret.
Robert & Adrienne Bailey
CWO5 Richard & Lori Brasco USN Ret.
CDR Hal & Grace Halenza USN Ret.
AO1(AW/SW) Cameron & Jan Sparks

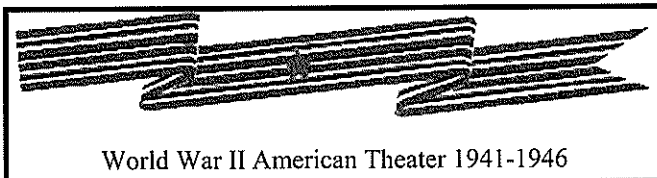
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AOC Corey W. Grojean
AO3 Susan N. Holt
AOOCM Raymond A. Suarez USN Ret.
AOCS(AW/SW) Sandra A. Dyal
AOCS(AW) Diane E. McQueen-Gipson
AO1 William A. Gelinis Jr.
LT Michael L. Bornstein
AOOCM David Rivera USN Ret.
LCDR Gerald W. Gladders
AO3 Brandon L. Yarberry
Philip A. Terzich
Jeffrey M. Terzich
Christopher P. Terzich
AOC John M. Paul
AO1 Dale A. Burns USN Ret.
AO1 William P. Benedict
AO1 Dave W. Johnson
LCDR Donovan 'Mac' S. McManus
LCDR Henry J. Famularo USN Ret.
LT John D. Moore
LCDR Steven P. Greer

NEW MEMBERS

MGYSGT Devine C. Ruiz
Theresa L. Zalewski
AO2 Brian Williams
AO1 Bing Lambert L. Arciaga
AOCS Miguel Armando Silva
AO1(AW/SW) Milton L. James
James O. Winkler
AO3 Sada L. Thorne
AO3 Gregory D. McQuiston
AO2 Daniel L. Miller
AO3 Jason M. Rivera
AO1 James P. Maekie Jr.
AOAN Stephanie A. Peterson
AO2 Corey D. DePaula
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AOAN Tiffany K. Wilchick
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AOOCM(AW) Marc A. Toll
AOOCM Brit M. Borovac
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AK1 Robert J. Muretta
AOAN Adam D. Saenz
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AO1(AW/SW) Gabriel A. Thompson
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AO5 Yesenia G. Calvario
AO3 Samuel Edwards
AO1(AW/NAC) Michael S. Mitchell
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AO3 Cory D. Stottsberry
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CPL Michael M. King
LCPL Nicholas J. Jones
LCDR Henry J. Famularo USN Ret.
AMCS Steven E. Haugh USN Ret.
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ENS Charles A. Carter
GYSGT Imran Malik
LCDR Donovan 'Mac' S. McManus
CPL Matthew A. Tasz
LCPL William N. Campbell
LCPL Christopher M. Hairston
LTJG Edwin S. Gibson Jr.
SSGT Joshua D. Quigley
AO1 Gary A. Woods
ENS Michael D. Malone
LT Jack L. Hurley
David P. Grow
AO3(AW) Gary Walker Jr.
AOAN Harold W. George
CWO2 Terrance B. Williams
AOC Brandon D. Vice
AO3 Kenneth R. Downs
AO2 Michael A. Rodriguez
AO1 Gregory S. Worman
AO3 Christian D. Jones
AO2 Neil A. Peterson
AO2 Isaac J. Hernandez
MM1 Jamie P. Lafave
AOC Dave Lee USN Ret.
AOC Jenny L. Youmans
AO1 Frank Rock Jr.
AOCS Charles J. Siegel
AO2 Bret D. Way



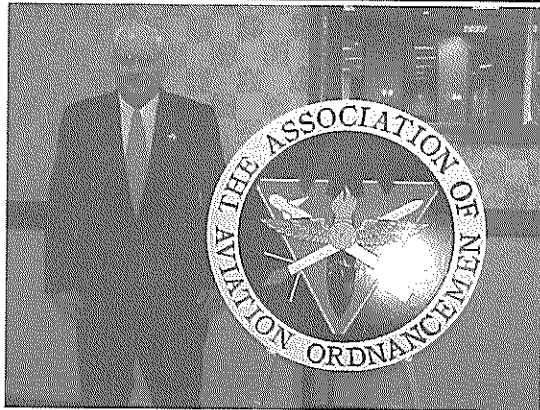
World War II American Theater 1941-1946



*2008 Aviation Ordnanceman
Of The Year
AO1(AW/SW) KENNETH M. DAVIS*

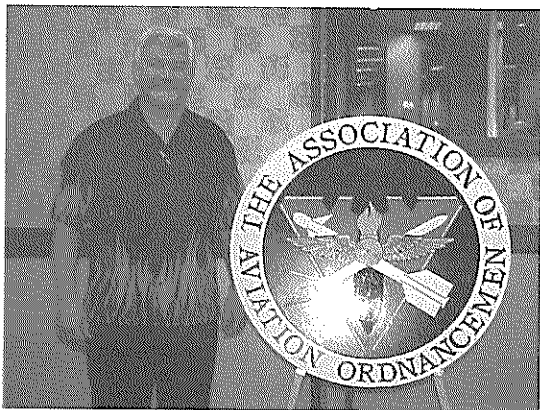


*2008 Aviation Ordnanceman
Of The Year Runner Up
AO1(AW/SW) JEFFERY A. COGSWELL*

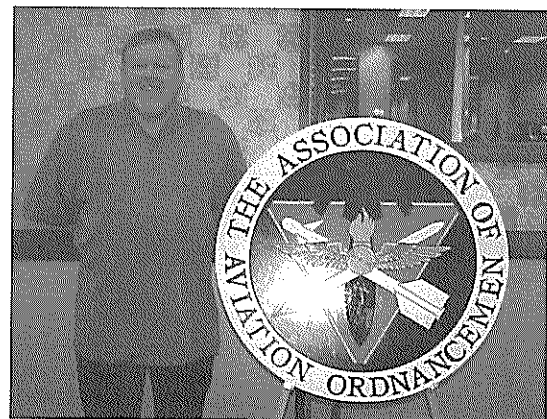


AOC ROBERT "BOB" UNDERWOOD USN (RET)

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Every year, meetings are held to discuss ideas and plans for the next Symposium and Convention. **Everyone is welcome!**

The Symposium meeting will be held on **Friday, January 16 at 2:00 p.m.** The Convention meeting will be **Saturday, January 17 at 9:00 a.m.**

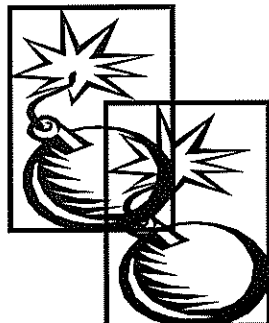
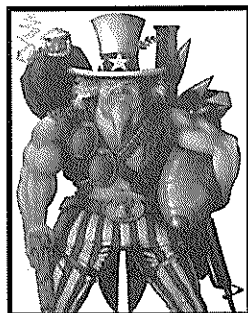
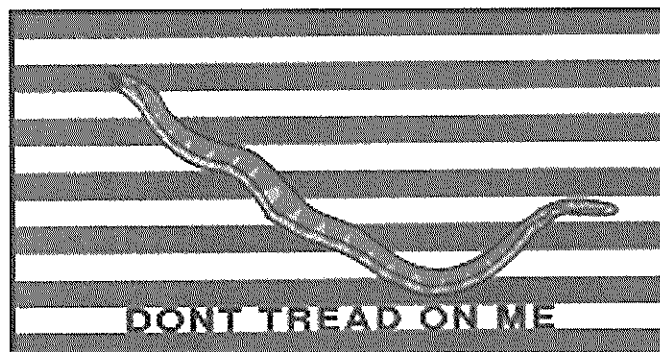
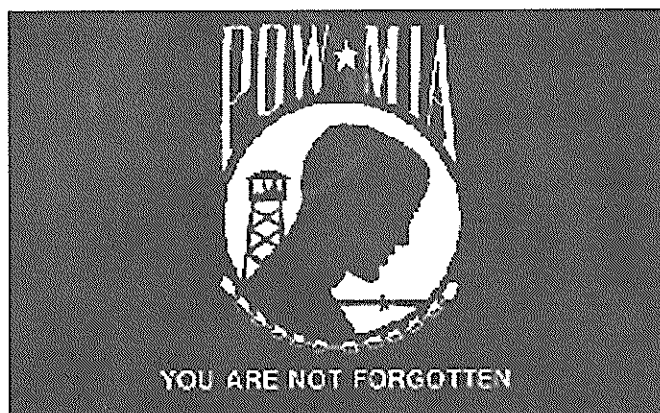
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Can you help?.....Know where any of these members can be located? If so please contact me at aaotreas@cox.net, snail mail or give me a call.

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AOM1 Peter Parpan
AO2 Kevin D. Walter
GMC Vincent L. Perry
AO3 Cory E. Fox
AOAN Mark R. Wheeler
GYSGT John M. Merritt
Eva Strelow
AOAN Willie G. Brigman
AO1 Jonathan C. Dingler

GYSGT Herbert J. McGowan
AOAN Chris J. Benedict
AO1 Lamont Bethel
AO3 Fletcher C. Beaman II
AOAN Carlo J. Lee
AO1 Anthony G. Whetstone USN Ret.
Inez Stokke
Bette Lowas
AO1 Ronnie Caudle





"Green" Roots Come in Handy for Iwo Jima Expeditionary Strike Group Commander By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class (SW) Michael Starkey, Iwo Jima Expeditionary Strike Group Public Affairs

USS IWO JIMA, At Sea -- After completing the "blue" phase of its Composite Unit Training Exercise (COMPTUEX), the Iwo Jima Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) began supporting the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (26 MEU) in the "green" phase of their pre-deployment certification effort July 19. Leading the Iwo Jima ESG in its support of the 26 MEU is a man very familiar with Marine operations.

Capt. Brian T. Smith, Commander, Iwo Jima ESG, is a former Marine Aviation Ordnanceman, now in charge of leading an expeditionary strike group which is heavily focused on moving Marines from ship to shore.

"I am very proud of my service in the Marine Corps and equally proud of my service in the Navy," said Smith. I'm honored to be in a position where I can work with both Marines and Sailors."

Smith's prior Marine service offers several benefits in his current position.

"Being a former Marine gives me a better understanding of how Marines operate and what challenges they face," said Smith. "Having an appreciation of their culture and way-of-life is valuable when working so closely with an embarked MEU. The better we understand each other's needs, the better we work together."

The 26 MEU is capable of conducting a wide variety of missions on land - ranging from full-scale combat, to humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief - but teamed with

the Iwo Jima ESG, the unit is able to conduct these missions ship-to-shore anywhere in the world.

"Our amphibious ships provide a unique capability serving as platforms to support Marine movements and operations ashore," said Smith. "This capability is significantly enhanced by our cruiser and destroyer escorts which provide a very robust, additional set of warfighting capabilities."

The "green" phase of the exercise forces the 26 MEU to prepare for any of the myriad missions a MEU could be called upon to execute, and many of the missions require heavy coordination between the Iwo Jima ESG and the 26 MEU.

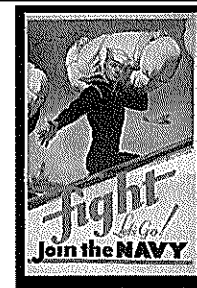
"Military response is a joint effort on the part of all the armed services," said Smith. "We all bring different capabilities to the fight. The Navy-Marine team, as we see between Iwo Jima ESG and 26 MEU, provides mutually-supportive, full-spectrum crisis response options employing all available maritime, land and air assets."

For Smith, working closely with Marines while commanding the Iwo Jima ESG is rewarding.

"In many ways I've come full circle," said Smith. "I started out as an Aviation Ordnanceman working with a Harrier squadron from Cherry Point. Now I'm able to look down on the flight deck and see many young, smart, hard-working Marines doing many of the same tasks I performed nearly 30 years ago. It gives me a great sense of pride in the naval service, and never ceases to amaze me the journey that took me from working on Marine Harriers to commanding an Expeditionary Strike Group."

Currently preparing for its upcoming regularly-scheduled deployment, the Iwo Jima ESG is made up of more than 5,000 Sailors and Marines, and projects sea power ashore by maintaining the capability of landing amphibious forces by helicopters, amphibious track vehicles, air cushion landing craft, and assault craft whenever and wherever the need arises.

The Iwo Jima ESG consists of the amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) with the embarked 26 MEU; the amphibious dock landing ship USS Carter Hall (LSD 50); the amphibious transport dock ship USS San Antonio (LPD 17); the guided-missile cruiser USS Vella Gulf (CG 72); the guided-missile destroyer USS Ramage (DDG 61); all homeported at Norfolk, Va.; the guided-missile destroyer USS Roosevelt (DDG 80), homeported at Mayport, Fla.; and the fast attack submarine USS Hartford (SSN 768), homeported at Groton, Conn.





GREETINGS MY FELLOW ORDIES!

I WISH TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR WELL WISHES AND CONCERNS FOR MY WIFE LAURA (MRS ORDIEAPPAREL) DURING HER BATTLE WITH LYMPHOMA CANCER. THE TREATMENTS ARE WORKING, SLOWLY, BUT WORKING NONE THE LESS. SHE IS DOING WELL AND HAS A GREAT SPIRIT!

IT WAS HUGE SUCCESS AT THIS YEAR'S CONVENTION. THANKS TO ALL WHO VISITED THE BOOTH. WE UNVIELED MANY NEW ITEMS AND THE ROBES AND DIRECTORS CHAIRS WERE A SUCCESS. WE HAVE SINCE ADDED CAMPING CHAIRS AND LADIES WRAPS, IF THEY DO NOT PREFER THE ROBE. SPEAKING OF THE LADIES, WE ADDED ITEMS FOR YOU AND KIDS. YOU CAN CHECK OUT THOSE ITEMS AND MANY MORE ON THE NEW ITEMS PAGE.

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Auxiliary To The Association Of Aviation Ordnancemen



Fall is just around the corner and we hope everyone got through the hurricanes, floods, wildfires, tornados and anything else Mother Nature challenged us with! Next, we have to deal with the upcoming elections. I can't imagine what we'll do when we can watch TV without all the campaign ads!

The Symposium and Convention was a great success. We know the economy kept some people from being able to attend, but the turnout was much better than expected.

The Auxiliary is happy to welcome eight new General Members. *Pat Ayer, Stephanie Carroll, Ann Gramolini, Ashley Richardson, Nicole Richardson, Rosa Matt, Jan Sparks and Rita Welch.* We also welcome back *Dee Dee Harmon.*

Because we depend so much on members' support from year to year, we appreciate the fact that nine general members decided to join as **Lifetime Members!** *THANK YOU and WELCOME to JoAnne Adams, Genia August, Patricia Edon, Bud Hardy, Dottie Michel, Jackie Rice, Dorothy Underwood, Sally Vance and Teresa Zimmer!!*

As mentioned before, we had a great convention. Many of you donated items to the **Raffle** which raised \$1260 for the **Scholarship Fund.** *Linda Robinson* and her helpers did a wonderful job again this year. We wish to thank the following ladies for helping with not only the Raffle, but also with manning the Auxiliary Memorabilia table. So thank you to *Linda Scott, Cyndy Sassone, Susette Sylvester-Ecker, Doris From, Lynda Rowland, Dottie Michel, and Betty Clark.* Also thank you to *Julie Clayton* and *Melissa Fecht* for working so hard selling 50/50 raffle tickets. They collected a **whopping \$1600** of which the Auxiliary keeps \$800 for the General Fund.

Janice Whitley and *Ken Clasen* headed up the **Taste of Home Coin Challenge!** This turned out to be a fun and very spirited contest! The end result was a big win for the Taste of Home with \$459.18 added to their funds. So be sure to save your pennies and coins for next year's challenge!

The Friday Night Auction raised \$5360. There were a lot of wonderful items up for bid and we sincerely thank all the

donors and bidders for supporting this important event. We are very proud to say that the Scholarship Fund will receive a total of **\$7176** from the 2008 Convention

The Auxiliary held it's Annual General Business Meeting and elections. **Beverly Jo Myhand** was re-elected Vice President and **Linda Scott** became our new Chaplain. **Dottie Michel** and **Janice Whitley** are newly elected to the Board of Directors. Congratulations and thank you for your dedication and willingness to get involved! **Dottie Michel** was appointed as the Memorabilia Chairman.

Following the General Business Meeting, we were entertained with a fantastic presentation by **Paulette Grune** and her assistant, **Barbara White.** Paulette's expertise lies in the Victorian period and she transformed herself into a "properly dressed" Victorian lady while educating us on the lifestyle, challenges and social class distinctions that were so evident during the Victorian era. Her program was definitely a highlight for those of us that were in attendance.

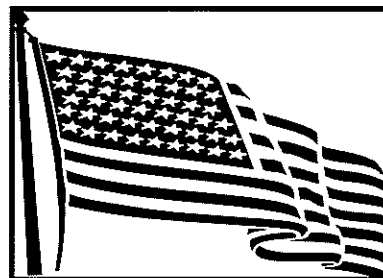
The Auxiliary would like to acknowledge all the individual donations that have been sent to us. Our two main projects...the **Scholarship Fund** and **The Taste of Home** are most important and we thank you for your generosity. You can send donations to the Auxiliary Treasurer, *Carolyn Thomas.* Make checks payable to **AAAO** and mail to 1394 Lilac Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91911.

Scholarship Donations: *Phyllis Terzich (in memory of Tony Terzich), Peggy Dunn, Rosalinda Poutree, Patsy Stokes, Nancy Richardson, Elaine Southerland, Rosemary Laur, Tom and Janet Sawyer, Sylvia Ashlock, Dorothy Underwood, Jackie Rice, Pat Ayer, Will Carnall, Tom Wordinger, Susan Cox (State Farm Agent) and James and Julie Bryant.*

Taste of Home Donations: *Marie Cashat, Patsy Stokes, Linda Scott, Shannon Williams, Elaine Southerland, Bonnie Pfeifer, Beth Kershnik, Ann Robins, Patricia Castro, Nellie Cowell and Betty Clark.*

Remember.... WE DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

WE SUPPORT THE ARMS OF THE FLEET!
Delores Manley - AAAO President





*Association Of Aviation
Ordnancemen Educational
Foundation*



New GI Bill Answers

Rick Maze - Army News
July 22, 2008

Top of Form

Four groups of people may be disappointed as details become clearer:

Spouses and children of current service members expecting to use

GI Bill benefits — after the Pentagon demanded that such transfer rights be added to the final bill — are now learning that the option of sharing education benefits will not be available until Aug. 1, 2009, at the earliest, and even then this aspect of the program could be limited.

Service members or veterans who have already used their full 36 months of GI Bill entitlement, or who will exhaust their benefits before Aug. 1, 2009, will never receive full tuition payments or the new book and housing allowances because of the delayed effective date of the new program — and there will be no retroactive payments.

Those who still have remaining benefits today will get a 20 percent increase in their monthly payments on Aug. 1, 2008, which is significant, though not quite as generous as the full tuition plus allowances that will be offered to those who qualify in full for the new plan.

People enrolled in the current Montgomery GI Bill who have not made the full \$1,200 enrollment contribution will continue to forfeit \$100 a month in basic pay, even though the new benefits plan will be free. New recruits can opt out of the current GI Bill plan, but defense officials are advising them to think carefully because the new Post-9/11 GI Bill doesn't cover apprenticeships, correspondence courses, on-the-job training, flight training, and some preparatory classes and national exams.

Veterans attending or who will attend a state college or university and will have their tuition fully or partly covered by a state veterans' program could get paid less under the Post-9/11 plan because their benefits will match only what they pay out of pocket. Under the current Montgomery GI Bill, if their tuition and fees are less than their monthly benefits payment, they can pocket the difference.

Bob Norton of the Military Officers Association of America said none of this should detract from the fact that the Post-9/11 bill includes "pretty significant changes" that will make college more affordable for an entire generation of veterans.

"This is the biggest GI Bill since World War II, and that is a big deal," said Norton, who is also a representative of the Partnership for Veterans Education, a group of about 50 military and higher education associations.

Here are the details of the new plan, according to Pentagon and Veterans Affairs Department officials, including when changes can be expected.

Who is covered?

Anyone who has served three months or longer on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001, is eligible for benefits under the new law, as long as they have not used other veterans' education benefits. That includes those who enrolled in the current Montgomery GI Bill program and those who did not.

Among those who had no benefits but will now qualify for the new program's full-tuition payments and book and housing allowances:

Officers who were ineligible for Montgomery GI Bill Benefits because they had four-year Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarships or received a service academy education.

National Guard and reserve members who accumulated at least three months of active service.

Officers and enlisted members whose service predates the Montgomery GI Bill.

No enrollment is required for the new program, only patience. The delayed effective date of Aug. 1, 2009, applies even to those who have retired or separated from service.

A few eligibility requirements apply. Those who have separated from service must have received an honorable discharge or served under honorable conditions, which includes those released for hardship reasons or pre-existing medical conditions. Anyone whose service is terminated because of fraud or error would not be eligible.

Unlike the Montgomery GI Bill, there is no requirement to have a high school diploma in order to qualify for the new program.

When will benefits increase?

The first effects of the Post-9/11 benefits plan will be felt on Aug. 1 of this year, when benefits under the current Montgomery GI Bill plan for people who serve or have served on active duty will rise by 20 percent.

That will push the current maximum monthly benefit of \$1,101 for those with more than three years of active service, and \$894 for those with less than three years, to \$1,321 and \$1,073, respectively.

That increase will not apply to Montgomery GI Bill benefits

(Continued on page 24)



(Continued from page 23)

for the Selected Reserve but it will apply to National Guard and reserve members covered by the Reserve Educational Assistance Program, that awards a percentage of active-duty GI Bill benefits based on the longest period of continuous mobilization since Sept. 11, 2001.

After the Aug. 1 adjustment in Montgomery GI Bill rates, that program's payments will rise each Oct. 1, beginning in 2009, based on the increase in the average nationwide tuition rate for four-year public schools. This is a more generous formula than the current law, which has set annual payment increases to match the rate of inflation — which usually lags behind annual increases in tuition rates.

How much will I get under the new plan?

Full-tuition benefits and the housing and book stipends promised by the Post-9/11 bill will not apply to any education or training before Aug. 1, 2009.

When the new program launches on that date, full-tuition benefits will depend on tuition rates in effect in each state at that time, as well as the length of active service since Sept. 11, 2001. Those with at least 90 days will get 40 percent of their applicable full tuition rate; those with at least six months will get 50 percent; those with at least one year, 60 percent; those with at least 18 months, 70 percent; those with at least two years, 80 percent; and those with at least 30 months, 90 percent.

Those who serve at least 36 months qualify for 100 percent tuition payments. Also, anyone who serves at least 30 days of continuous active duty and is discharged with a service-connected disability qualifies for the 100 percent rate.

The percentages apply not only to the basic benefits payment, but also to the new housing and book allowances.

Once the new program is up and running, annual adjustments in Post-9/11 GI Bill payments will continue to be based on the tuition rate for the most costly school in each state.

How will benefits be paid?

The basic benefit will be paid to the school instead of the individual, a departure from current practice. The payments will be up to the cost for in-state tuition and fees for a full-time student for the most expensive four-year public college or university in the state where the person is enrolled.

VA will pay students a housing stipend equal to the military's basic allowance for housing for an E-5 with dependents in the school's ZIP code, and a book allowance, paid in a lump sum at the start of the semester or term, that can be no more than \$1,000 a year.

Post-9/11 benefits can be used for distance learning, but no housing stipend will be paid in those instances.

The full-tuition benefits will be adjusted each year based on

changes in tuition and fees. The housing allowance will fluctuate based on the rates paid by the military. The new program has no scheduled adjustment for the book allowance.

What if I go to private school?

Recognizing that full-tuition benefits based on the cost of a four-year public school could fall short of the cost of a private school education, the Post-9/11 GI Bill includes an optional program in which the school and VA would share the cost of paying the difference between benefits and tuition charges.

The "Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement" option would not be available before Aug. 1, 2009. It requires VA and each school to reach an agreement under which VA will match the amount of tuition and fees waived by the college or university. A school could set the maximum contribution it would provide to each student and limit the number of students who could be covered each year. A school's share would have to be a grant or scholarship, not a loan.

A list of schools participating in the program, including details of the agreement, would be made public to allow comparisons.

What about my college fund or supplemental benefits?

Service members who received extra education benefits as an enlistment incentive or who used the "Buy Up" program, in which they set aside more money for larger benefits, would receive those extra amounts in addition to the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

Are full tuition payments retroactive?

Architects of the Post-9/11 GI Bill initially indicated that while the effective date of the program would be Aug. 1, 2009, the biggest increases — full-tuition benefits and allowances for books and housing — would be retroactive to June 30 of this year, the date the program was enacted. It came as a surprise to some people when that turned out not to be the case.

Aides to Webb said the senator is working with other senators to try to get the increased benefits made retroactive to June 30. But defense officials cautioned that troops and veterans should not bank on promises about proposed legislation.

Other Senate aides warned that any further changes in the Post-9/11 GI Bill would have to be "revenue-neutral" — meaning they could not add to the new program's already considerable cost — in order to have a chance of being approved.

What else is covered?

The Post-9/11 GI Bill will pay up to \$1,200 in tutorial assistance, up to \$2,000 for licensing or certification tests and up to \$500 to help cover transportation costs for people in re-

(Continued on page 25)



(Continued from page 24)

mote areas.

All these benefits take effect in 2009, at the same time full-tuition coverage begins, and are not charged against a person's total entitlement.

Tutorial assistance, limited to \$100 per month with a lifetime cap of \$1,200, will be covered when an instructor determines a student needs the help.

Payment for a licensing or certification test is a benefit that can be used only once. The VA will pay the cost of the test, up to a maximum of \$2,000.

The one-time \$500 travel allowance, added by Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, would apply in very limited circumstances. It would be paid only to someone who lives in a state with less than seven people per square mile; must travel 500 miles or more to use benefits; and can travel only by air because roads are not available.

That essentially limits the benefit to rural Alaska. To get paid, individuals must prove they live in a remote area.

Advance payments — lumping several months of benefits to cover course costs — also will be permitted, though VA will have to craft rules on how this would be done.

Note:

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When I was a rookie

Following AO'A' School, then located at the Naval Technical Training Center, Jacksonville, FL in October of '55, this poor boy from New Mexico, and a half dozen other AO'A' School grads reported to 'Composite Squadron Thirty Five' at NAS North Island, CA. A VAN Team (VA(night)) of some 40 officers & men (4 AOs) rode each Attack Carrier deploying from the west coast. VC-33 did the east coast ships. Other 'composite' squadrons at NASNI were VC-11 with AD-5W 'Guppies' for early warning missions, and VC-6, with A3-J's, which flew heavy attack missions. VC-61 did photography missions, homeported at NAS Miramar, and later changed to 'VFP-63'. All sent detachments aboard each CVA...

So, here I am, the new kid on the block, a proud AOAN, looking at a flight line and two hangars, with a hundred plus AD-5Ns, a few AD-4NA's, F2-Hs and SN-B's. Our AD-5Ns each had 14 bomb racks (12 of which also carried 5"

(Continued on page 26)



(Continued from page 25)

rockets) and 4 M-3 20mm guns. Excitement abounded, as the only squadrons I'd known of were the 12 plane VA and VF outfits, with a dozen or so AOs. I never had any idea how many AOs our Squadron actually had, as each detachment, both ashore and afloat deployed with four AOs. A few also had one or two AOs who flew as combat aircrewmembers. Ships deployed about one each couple of months. The aircraft had two seats up front, the port seat for the pilot, the other for an enlisted crewman, plus a third seat behind a lot of radar equipment, for another crewman. In addition to the four AOs, the dets had five officers and about 35 men from other ratings. A regular AD squadron, became our 'mother squadron' when we went aboard and permitted us to share and clean the their Ordnance Shop, but mostly they wanted us to keep to ourselves.

In '56, our squadron's mission changed from 'Night Attack' to 'All Weather Attack' so our name changed to VA(AW)-35. Later, at North Island, our secondary mission would be to train the Sailors who ordered to the planned NAS Lemoore, CA. This was years before I'd heard an AD aircraft referred to as a 'SPAD' or the term 'Ordie' or an aircraft carrier being called a '27-Charlie'. We were simply AOs who worked on and loaded ADs...

Shortly after checking into the squadron, I found myself on my first flight ever, in an R4-D, flying to El Centro for an ordnance det. Soon after that, I was assigned to VA(N) Team 41, to deploy on the 'The Fighting Lady'. The USS Yorktown (CVA-10) would deploy in the spring of '56. AO3 Jack Stone was our team leader, with AN Robert Cecil (Ozzie) Osborne and AOAN Dan Kirby being the others. Jack had been a Navy cook during WWII, and changed his rate to AO when he went into the Reserves soon after the war's end. Jack was retired in Pensacola, FL and had some serious health problems the last time I heard about him. Originally from High Point, NC, Ozzie'd made AO1 and was stationed in Sangley Point, RP Weapons the last time I saw him. Dan transferred to the 'Test Center' in China Lake, CA not long after the '57 cruise. I never saw him again.

So, a Reserve AO3 who could cook (and tattoo his shipmates) and three airmen went to sea, and strangely enough we existed. Four AOs were not enough to load 500# fat bombs manually, so we often had the plane captain help out. It took very few 500 pounders to take a real toll on our stamina. 1000 pounders required loading with MK-8 hoists, while the VA squadron had enough AOs to load the big bombs with hernia bars. Loading 100#ers or HVARs on folded wings also took some real special doing for the four of us. Two of us would be precariously positioned on the wing butt & hanging on to the outboard gun (forward) or an Aero-14 Bomb Rack, bending over and taking the weapon from the two standing on deck was plenty exciting. Loading them and making the needed fuzing and arming wire attachments was usually a real charge. All the while, trying (often unsuccessfully) to keep body parts away from any

fuzes, wires and fins on the ones we'd just finished loading was something to write home about. Heavy seas really made life fun... No one could load the outboard guns with the wings folded like Fat Ozzie, with skinny me standing on the deck holding his ankles to keep him from sliding off the slippery wing. I've often wondered if we could have existed wearing the float coats and skid lids in use today... The AD had plenty of small holes we had to get into -- and out of...

So, after some liberty ports that I'd heard sea stories about but never really believed existed and plenty of time at sea, the cruise was over in October of '56. Ozzie and I (now AO3s) immediately went to our Chief and volunteered to go out on the next available VAN team. He immediately told us we'd go out again on the Fighting Lady with VAN-47, and that I'd have the helm. Never in my worst nightmare had I pictured me being in charge of anything -- much less three explosives handlers and four aircraft -- but there I was -- AO in complete charge. AO3 Bill Clauberg (from Brooklyn, NY) soon returned from a VAN-42 cruise on the USS Wasp (CVA-18), and asked to go out again. Bill is now retired in Las Vegas, NV. We also had an AN from Cleveland, OH that like so many other things, I've forgotten his name. So, three second cruise AO3's and a first cruise AN started preparing our four aircraft to go to sea a few months down the road. But almost immediately, the ship was recalled for immediate deployment to handle an incident in the Taiwan Strait.

So, about 36 hours later, the greenest Ordnance crew in history, without adult supervision or a hash mark in the group, was headed to war. Thankfully, as we were approaching the 'date line', the problem in the Strait was resolved and the ship was able to return to San Diego. We then deployed as originally scheduled, in February '57. The Fighting Lady changed from CVA-10 to CVS-10 the day we returned stateside in September '57. She's now a floating museum in Charleston Harbor at Mount Pleasant, SC.

The gist of this (in case anyone is still reading) is to advise today's AOs of a few things that their Shipmates likely can't tell them. Ordnance handling was very different before the Qual/Cert Program came into being -- there's little wonder that the explosives accidents of the late '60s came to pass. If we'd actually gone to war in '56, it wouldn't have been a big surprise if we would have been the first carrier on that list. I'm thankful beyond belief that wasn't the case. Next, earlier 'VC' squadrons did plenty of things other than tow targets as was later the case. And lastly, attack squadrons actually existed before Lemoore. My next tour was with Attack Squadron-56 at NAS Miramar, CA. We were deployed on my second USS Ticonderoga (CVA-14) cruise when Lemoore first opened its gates... I transferred to the Philippines late in that cruise, but VA-56 and VA-55 went straight to Lemoore when the '61 cruise ended.

AOCM Bob Holdman USN(Ret) & former AO2 Bill Clauberg



Bahrain Ordies who support the 5t Fleet, NAVCENT, CTF-53 and NSA.

From left to right. LT Morgan, CWO3 Shazier, CDR(sel) Gramolini, Deke Miner, Chief(sel)Bates, GMC Clark, CWO2(sel)Slack, MSGT Kudlo.



USS Ronald Reagan, CVW-14 and NAWMU-1 Ordies at Toys bar in Guam. Submitted By CDR Dion Edon



080529-N-5087R-123 NORFOLK, Va., (May 29, 2008) Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Bruce Jazwinski, assigned to the Pre-Commissioning Unit George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), fires a pitch during the 19th Annual U.S. Military All-Star Baseball Game at Harbor Park. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Lauren Randall (Released)



Ordie LT on the front line. LT Robert "Bob" Burgett assigned to PRECOM George H.W. Bush



John Finns 99th Birthday Party. Submitted by Bob Solomon



John Finns 99th Birthday Party. Submitted by Bob Solomon.....Bob, I didn't have room for your letter. Will get it in with more of your pictures next issue! Kevin.



VFA-192



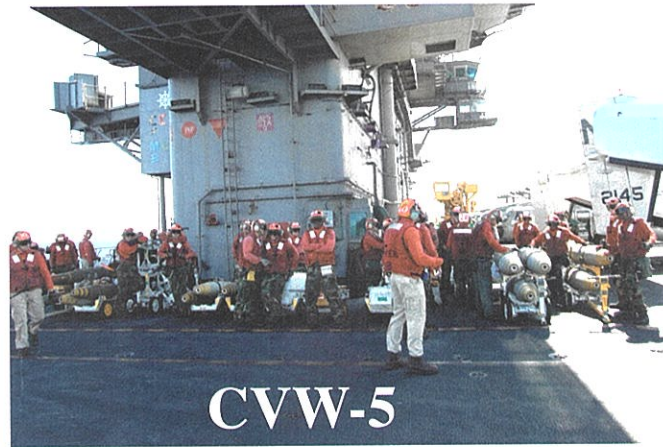
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CVW-5



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