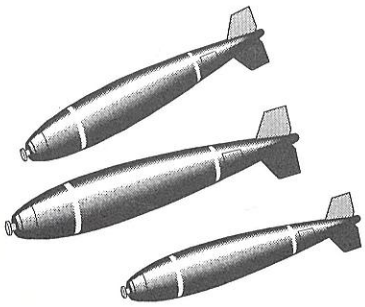
The Red Shirt

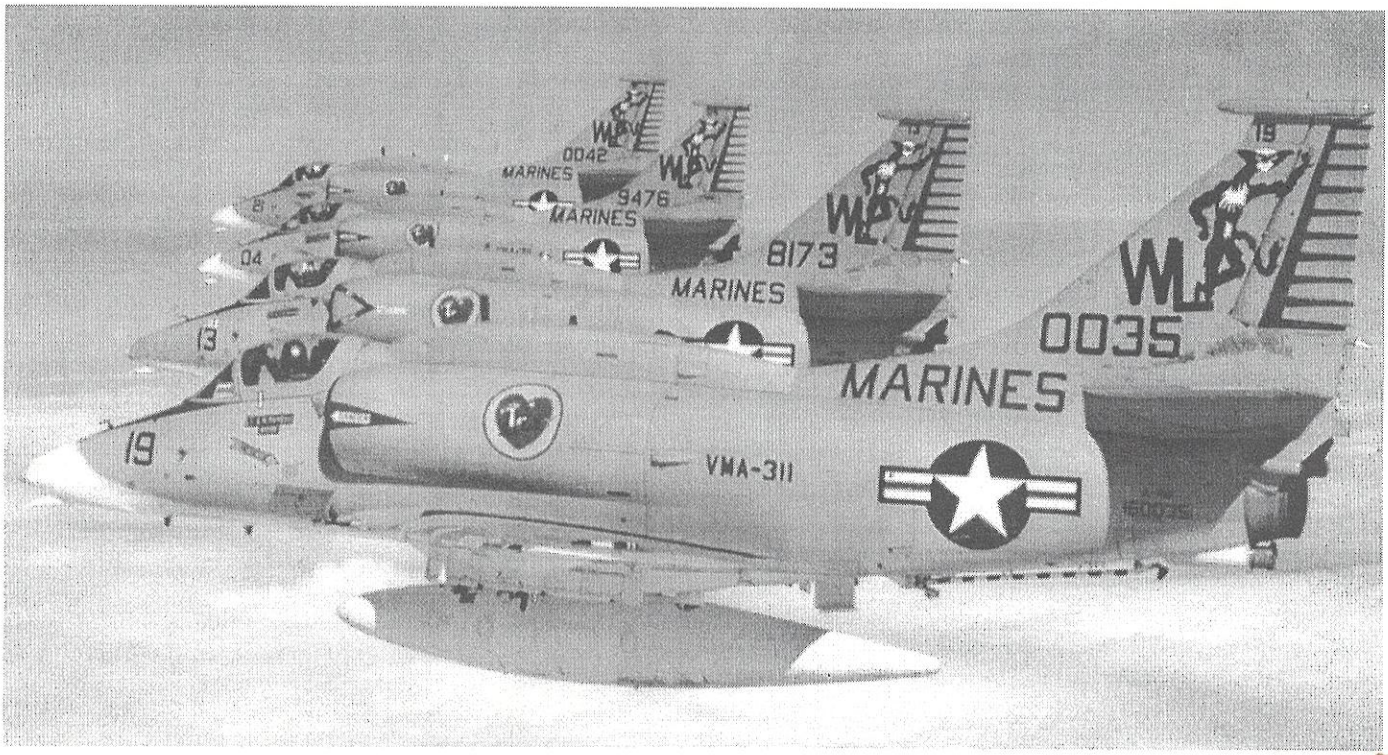
PEACE THROUGH POWER - WE ARE THE "ARMS" OF THE FLEET

Newsletter # 61 *May* 1996



U.S.M.C.
Aviation Ordnance

April 1922 - April 1996



The Association of Aviation Ordnancemen

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I promised in the last "Red Shirt", this would be the Convention issue. If there is anything you wanted to know about this year' s Convention, you should be able to find it in this edition. I would like to thank Frank Thill and the Convention Committee, Chuck Onken, Billy Earl, Ed Scott, the Board of Directors, and Auxiliary President Kate Sawyer, Auxiliary Sec/Tres Kathy Gannon, Red Shirt Editor Steve Cashat and everyone that has been involved with this years Convention for a job well done! This will be the first year at Don Laughlin's Riverside Resort, Hotel and Casino in Laughlin Nevada. If it turns out as we expect, we will be enjoying many more at the Riverside in Laughlin. If you ever wanted to attend a convention, this is the year. The prices offered along with the facilities and staff at Don Laughlin's Riverside Resort Hotel & Casino are so accommodating, we can't miss. If you haven't already made your plans, **call Jim Thomas, our Association Travel Agent, at Point Loma World Travel, 1- 800- 783-9646 for the special hotel, air and rental car rates.** Thank you, Jim, for being such a great provider and friend. Your many hours of dedication to the Association are most appreciated..

Many of our members may not have gotten the word, but our Chaplain AOCM, Ret, Ron Bushta has been in the hospital with cancer of the larynx. We all hope and pray that the good Lord is looking out for him. Ron, on behalf of Mary Ann and myself, and along with all Ordies worldwide, we are praying for you, Shirley and your family. We know that because of your faith in the "Supreme Commander" you will come through your operation in good shape. We look forward to seeing you at the Convention. We love you, man!!! . . . . and you can have our Bud Lite anytime!

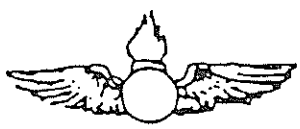
I am also very much looking forward to having Vice Admiral Brent Bennitt (our Guest Speaker) and his lovely wife Diane join us this year. I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to say hello. Having worked for Vice Admiral Bennitt twice, I can assure you that he is a friend and supporter of the Aviation Ordnance community. I am especially anxious for him to meet the best Shipmate any of us will ever have, our own Medal Of Honor winner, John Finn. It's going to be great to see John again and talk about the 50th Anniversary trip and see if we can keep up with this 87 year old romping stomping Ordie.

The John W. Finn Aviation Ordnancernan of the Year packages are slowly coming in. I would like to encourage each and every command to submit your "Top Ordie" for this most prestigious award. We owe it to our "Best of the Best" to submit them for this award. Every winner selected by his peers as the number 1 "Ordie" in the US Navy has either advanced to Chief Petty Officer or the Warrant, LDO ranks.

In closing, I hope to see all of you, coming from Coast-to-Coast, to what promises to be the best year ever for our Association. . . . something to be proud of. If coming, please sign up for a committee to serve on . . . . the Aviation Ordnancemen of the Year, Scholarship, Hall of Fame or any other committee. Contact our Secretary Treasurer, CWO-4/Ret, Billy Earl and get on the list.

You don't have to be a member to attend. Bring a fellow Ordie and join us this year along with Vice Admiral Bennitt and his wife Diane for a great Convention!!!!!!!

IYAOYAS !



MARCH 1996 CALENDAR WINNERS

DAY	*AMT*	*NO*	*NAME*
1	$25	793	Lair Jerald
2	$500	785	Bea Henry
3	$25	371	William Kelsey
4	$25	80	Rou Wood
5	$25	761	Sara Graham
6	$25	239	Warren Seal
7	$25	138	Ruth New
8	$25	119	John F. Roinoff
9	$25	330	David Sparlin
10	$25	55	M.A. Borup
11	$25	715	Donna Field
12	$25	13	Jerry Crite
13	$25	524	Bill Mullin
14	$25	125	
15	$25	170	Ed Clement
16	$25	827	W.C. Chuck Hall
17	$25	241	Kathy Willard
18	$25	77	Vic Leonard
19	$25	336	Martha Munroe
20	$25	678	R.A. Staples
21	$25	501	Carl Patrick
22	$25	688	Robert Harris
23	$25	872	Cyndy Sassone
24	$25	111	Howard Moody
25	$25	872	Cyndy Sassone
26	$25	539	George Smith
27	$25	79	Daivd Carpenter
28	$25	798	Joyce Fletcher
29	$25	384	Gary Laun
30	$25	706	Greg Wooldridge
31	$25	61	R. Hall

BOAT CRUISE FOR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

THURSDAY, 27 JUNE 1996 AT 1830

2 For the Price of ONE - $10.00
Normal Price $10.00 per Person

A CRUISE DOWN THE COLORADO IS JUST WHAT YOU NEED

It's the perfect time of the year to take a cruise. Don Laughlin's U.S.S. Riverside, the 120 passenger boat cruises for approximately 1.25 hours with a full narration on Davis Dam and the history of Lauglin and surrounding areas. The air-conditioned lower level offers comfort and enjoyment while touring the picturesque Colorado River.

From the Vice President

Once again, the 1996 Association of Aviation Ordnancemen convention at Don Laughlin's Riverside Resort Hotel and Casino in Laughlin, Nv, the 27th thru 30th of June 1996, is right around the corner. So if you haven't made your reservations, you need to get right on it. Reservations for the hotel, RV park and travel arrangements can be made by contacting Point Loma World Travel,Inc. Ask for Jim Thomas (1-800-783-8646). ONE CALL DOES IT ALL! Jim can provide you with air and rent-a-car information if requested. You can also call the Don Laughlin Riverside Resort/Hotel/Casino yourself to make reservations at 1-800-227-3849. Be sure to state you are with the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen.

There is a convention reservation application in this newsletter as well as the last. Be sure you get it sent in to Billy Earl, the National Sec/Treas, so that the committee can provide a better convention for you all! The more information we have the better things work.

Also, we request that you bring your AO name tag button. We will provide the new 1996 convention ribbon. For those that can not locate your name tag, we will have buttons available.

I have some sad news about a couple of our fellow AO's; Jim Irving and Ron Bushta have both been under the weather. Please everyone, remember them in your prayers and ask that they get well real soon.

Now for my favorite subject: AO membership! I just talked to Billy Earl, and we have lost several members because they have not renewed their membership. We are not getting enough new members to make-up the difference. Currently our membership is only around 1800 members. Everyone needs to get out and recruit at least one new or re-new an old member. If you can recruit more, please do! It is your Association, so let's support it. The Association has, over the years, made a difference to a lot of AO's, their families and communities. We all still like to have a good time, but we are a very caring bunch, also.

Hope to see you all at the 1996 convention, at Don Laughlin's Riverside Resort Hotel and Casino in Laughlin, NV. Let's make it the largest and the best!

One note I would like to make about conventions: if you do not like the sites or the way the conventions are being run, send in your site proposal with costs etc., and volunteer to be a convention chairman. The site selections that have been made to date, have been made with the members in mind, allowing them to get the most for their buck. You can contact myself or the president; if you are interested!

THE LIFE OF AN ORDNANCEMAN

It's always the way
And an average by law
We can work till our hands
Or our backs are quite sore
Then back to the Shop
No complaints not a sound
Then the Gunner walks in
And we are all sitting down

If the ammo's expended
On the morning patrol
When the pilots return
A quick refill's our goal
Then we pack all our gear
For the shop we are bound
Then the Gunner walks in
And we are all sitting down

On a dive bombing hop
We load all the racks
Then the pilots take Off
To make their attacks
Then back to the shop
We're all smiles, not a frown
Then the Gunner walks in
And we are all sitting down

If the aircraft machine guns
Are not firing just right
They give us no reason
Hell, that's our plight
Then we weed out the trouble
So they'll fire every round
Then the Gunner walks in
And we are all sitting down

If the sights need adjusting
Or a bomb rack that sticks
Well that is our baby
Cause we know all the tricks
We can check on a plane
From the top to the ground
Then the Gunner walks in
And we are all sitting down

If the bomb trucks foul up
And we haven't a jeep
Well, that's no excuse
Cause we still have our feet
Then back to the shop
We report what we've found
Then the Gunner walks in
And we are all sitting down

Now don't get us wrong
We're not beating our gums
But it seems mighty funny
The way our luck runs
We can work 20 hours
And no one is around
Then the Gunner walks in
And we are all sitting down

Anonymous

CONVENTION LIST

- ☑
- ☐ **RESERVATION APPLICATION**
- ☐ **TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS**
- ☐ **HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Chapter Meetings Places - Time - Dates

Chapter 1 - Lemoore, CA
President: Johnny Wheat
(209) 924-4465
Fleet Reserve
3rd Tuesdav, 1800

Chapter 4 - Virginia Beach, VA
President: Max Snock
(804) 340-7191
VFW Post 392. Bowland Parkway
3rd Wednesdav, 1900

Chapter 7 - Pt. Mugu, CA
President: Robert Gross
(805) 389-1107
The Point (CPO club)
3rd Wednesday, 1630

Chapter 9 - Jacksonville, FL
President: John Chandler
(904) 276-3492
Fleet Reserve Collins Road
3rd Thursday, 1900

Chapter 21 - Fallon, NV
President: James Moon
(702) 423-2475
Top Four Club, NAS Fallon
1st Thursday, 1900

Chapter 62 - USS Independence CV-62
President: Keith Reiner
Forward Deployed

Chapter 69 - USS Eisenhower CVN-69
President: Perry Stafford

Chapter 3 - Whidbey Island, WA
President: Mark Grauberger
(360) 675-7590
VFW Post 7392 (Whidbey)
2nd Wednesday, 1900

Chapter 5 - China Lake, CA
President: Ray Ramirez
(619) 446-8907
602 Entwistle
4th T'hursday, 1800

Chapter 8 - San Diego, CA
President: J. J. LaMaitre
(619)562-8492
Fleet Reserve,Chula Vista
lst Thursday, 1900

Chapter 11 - Barbers Point, HI
President: Richard Richards
(808) 684-9233

Chapter 22 - Capital Area
President: Garry Klaus
(703) 971-9232,:(703) 413-6262
Meets at: Indian Head/Crystal City
call for time and place

Chapter 68 - USS Nimitz CVN-68
President: Mike Price
Deployed

Chapter 70 - US S Carl Vinson
President: Ed Hogan

Chapter 72 - USS Abraham Lincoln
President: Anthony Ware

Chapter S-87 - Millington, TN
President: Kenneth Koenig
(901) 872-6670
VFW Post 7175

Chapter New Orleans, LA
President: Keith Quimbach

Chapter Pensacola, Fl
President: Dale Crabtree
800-535-2585
Fleet Reserve Branch 22
1st Wednesday, 1830

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

AOCM.Aubrey L. Sargent, Ret. #1908
AO1 Robert L. Quinn Jr., #5705
AOCM John I. Herring, #5824
AOCS (AW) Harry S. Marion, #2602
RADM Vincent D. Farrell, Ret. #0103
AFG I/C Rudell (Rudy) Bowling, #5797
AOM/AOI Ignacio J. Padilla, Ret. #5581
AOC Wayne W. Kraemer, Ret. #0221
COL Loyal P. Stewart. USAF Ret. #A-0528
AOC Gerald L. Young, Ret. #0208

NEW MEMBERS

AO3 John P. Merillat
ATC Charles A. Seidel
AOM I/C Leon A. Link (Linkiewiez)
AOM Leo E. Zimmer
AOCS Marty Cobb
AO3 Lysander Little
Richard A. Young
AOAN Larry M. Bode
LT Thomas C. Lettis
AZ2 Anthony M. Pacho
AO1 (AW) Arnold R. Riley
AOAN Jerrv L. Sinis
AO2 Carleen J. Spicer
AOC Eddie B. Allen
Juanell Craighead
AOC Glen A. Bell
AO3 Jacob Lee
AO1 Eduardo B. Esquivias
AO2 Andrew P. Roque
AOAN James E. Gent
ATC (AW) Raymond A. Vigil
AOCM/AOM Marion G. Spain
CWO4 Edward H. Ramsey
AO3 Craig Romero
AO1(AW) Samuel L. Anderson
AO1 Bonnie I. Menser
AOAN James E. Gentry Jr.
LT Jessie L. Dove
AO3 William D. Jacobs
AOC (AW) Art R. Michel
AOAN Todd M. Roller
AO1 (AW) Bryan J. Sicklinger
CWO3 Timothy Graves
LT Roy N. Williamson
AO1 (AW) Raymond H. Adams III
Ltjg Charles A. Dennis
Kenneth E. Dexter
AOM 1 /c Harry W. Putnam
AO3 Lawrence E. Schaffer
AOAN Eric K. Lucena
AOAA Greg W. Vanbrunt
Warren N. Wood
LTjg Jackie D. Knick
AO2 Joanna V. Santiago
AOl (AW) Samuel F. Strown
AOC Calvin G. Abers, Ret.
AOC (AW) Thomas E. Anderson
AO3 Richard W. Stout
AO2 Scott A. Morris
Ltig Robert E. Mercer
AOC John Coleman
LCDR/AOM Charles A. Brackin
AO3 Steven E. Spratt
AOAR Forrest R. Mayne
AOAR Eric A. Stockwell
AOC Louis Tafoya, Ret.
AO2 Einmett W. Garner
AOAR Ryan D. Pavlus
AOAN Robert P. Walker

SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTORS

Keni & Sandra Clasen
John & Kimiko Wheat
Lloyd & Joan Marihugh
Bruce Johnson
Lawrence & Shirley Singley
Don & Sandra Howard
Thomas K. Kessey
Lloyd Bowman
Jerry & Nancy Richarson
Thomas K. Williams
Ray & Myrna Fone
Mary K. Feldman
James & Nadine Yapel
Timothy & Crystal Holub
William & Sarah Barnard
Mr. & Mrs. Roy J. Bailets
David & Kathy Saulter
Steven & Pamela Wrernn
H. Pierce & Barbara Mallory
Charles A. Brackin
J. L. & Trenkins McClain
Charles & Shaunee Pitman
Jeffery J. Maxfield
Richard J. Peipert Jr.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Once again I sit here trying to think of the right words. While there are many subjects to ponder upon, I think I will stick to the really important one this time. Here we go ... As all of you know the convention is just around the corner. At this convention there are several very important items coming up for vote. The first item will be the proposed changes to the By-laws. In this edition of the "Redshirt," as required by Article X section 1O of the current By-laws, you will find a listing of the proposed changes. This is very important to all of you as this is how your Association may be administered in the future. Review them carefully and be prepared to vote on them at the convention. The second major item up for vote will be my successor. As of this writing there are four (4) candidates for the office of Secretary/Treasurer. They are as follows:

LCDR Richard J. (Dick) Grass, Ret. of Glenside, PA., at-large
LCDR Maximillian R. (Max) Snock, Ret. of Virginia Beach, VA, President of Chapter 4
CWO4 James W. Doran, Ret. of Ft. Lauderdale, FL.. at-large
AOCS John Chandler of Orange Park, FL, President of Chapter 9

Additional nominations can be made from the floor, but remember, you must have that person's permission to place his or her name in nomination. Start thinking about it. All of the candidates are emminently qualified and I personally know that all of them have the dedication that this job sometimes requires. The third and last major voting item will be for the two members of the Board of Directors whose terms have expired. They are: AOC Tony (Speedy) Gonzales, Ret. of Jacksonville, FL and David W. Moore of Lemoore, CA. Nominations for Board of Directors are normally taken from the floor, so if you would like to serve your Association, please let someone know.

One last thing .... Ain't technology great! I have finally made the jump to the Internet and E-mail world. Not without some (a lot) of growing pains. Johnny Wheat can attest to that; thanks Johnny for all of the help. For those of you who have not taken the leap, well, you really must give it a try. Did you know you can access *Navy Times, Navy News this Week* or if you have the right server, you can get right into BUPERS! I didn't think much of the old WANG's that we had when I was still on active duty, but I've got to tell you, I sure wish I had had one of these data base programs for tracking ammo expenditures. Maybe one of the spread sheet programs to keep track of personnel and training. Even the program being used to write this article would have been great for writing Evals. Right Del and Gary? It even cortects your spelling and grarm-ner if you'll let it. For those of you who want to keep in touch -- earl @sina.com.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Annual members:	1890
Life members:	305
Honorary members:	49
Address Unknown:	46
(active members)	
Taps Listing:	315
Inactive members:	3643

LOCATOR

Can you help?- - - Know where any of these members can be located?

A
A01 Harvard M. Adams
AOCS Albert A. Ammons
William A. Anderson
LTjg Ernest B. Ashford

B
GySgt Dalvin L. Bailey
AZ3 Kyle J. Baker
Timothy Belmore
A01 Neal H. Biliki
AOM2/C Walter L. Boyanton

C
AC1 Wayne H. Clay
A02 John A. Cline
MSgt Dennis M. Colbert, Retired
A02 (AW) David F. Crook
Helen Crowell

D
AOC Willis S. DeClue Jr.
A03 Christopher Douglas
AOAN Tomas S. Dunlavey

E
AOAN Kevin A. Eberhardt
AO1 (AW) Leonard B. Evans

G
A02 (AW) Steven D. Greslin

H
ACAN Jack L. Hawley Jr.

K
AOAA Robert W. Kimsey

L
AOCS (AW) Steven J. Lawson

M
David B. Malley
Lt 1520 Eric Maupin
AOAA Joseph W. McCawley
A02 Jack D. McCray
A02 John S. Moore

N
A03 Lynda Ann Neal

0
AOCS(AW) John S. Oates
LCDR 1320 D. B. Odenwelder

P
CDR Kenneth P. Parks
AO3 John D. Payne
AOCS John D. Plummer Retired
AO3 P. J. Postma
Lt Sean R. Prasser

R
A03 Hector L. Rodriguez

S
CWO3 James F. Saxton
AOC (AW) Earl L. Sorsby
AOl Joseph W. Sprague

T
AOAR Frank H. Taylor
LCDR Michael J. Taylor Ret

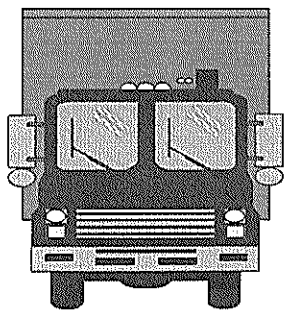
V
A01 (AW) Mark Vance
A01 (AW) Brian P. Velde

W
A01 Terence Wall

Z
WTSN Eric Zweigart

MOVING ?

Don't forget to send in a change of address !



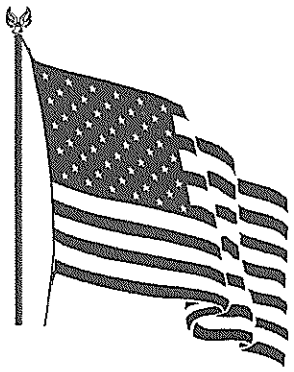
CHAPLAINS' CORNER

Greetings. Peace and Love to all. Moving right along through the year, the Christian high holy days of the Easter season have just come to an end, overlapped at the beginning by the Jewish Passover, and in the middle, by the birthday of Buddah. It may have been possible to tie a few other world religions in there somewhere, but I'm not that knowledgable of them.

Here in the San Diego area plans are in the final stages for our annual Chapter picnic on 18 May. Always a well attended event which could use even more attendance. Trying to get some of our AOs out of the woodwork is frustrating at times. And of course getting ready for a trip to Laughlin for the convention is REALLY something to look forward to for the renewal of acquaintances and just a plain old good time. As I try to bring up every time, things to be THANKFUL for; right close and personal, is talking to Jim Irving. Nice and simple. After hearing about Jim hospital stay it was nice to be able to talk to him for a few minutes and know he's still hangin' tough. I know ALL HANDS wish you well Jim, And also, really right close and personal, I want to THANK EVERYONE for their words of encouragement, cards, and prayers that helped sustain me through my surgery. Tell you what gang, with all the help we give each other, and the good Lord willin', things just can't go wrong. ***See ya in Laughlin!***

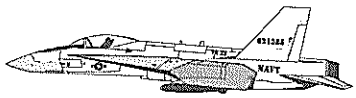
In closing, let's take a moment to again remember our shipmates, spouses, associates, Auxiliary, and others close to us who have reported to Supreme Staff. And say a prayer for all our brothers and sisters that just "need a thought" to help them sustain. Recruit a shipmate for the Association! Peace and Love to ALL.

Ron Bushta
P.O. BOX 5035
CHULA VISTA CA 91912-5035



TAPS

AO1 Richard O. Fowler II
AOC Albert H. Jost
AOCM William C. Morgan
AOC Robert C. Polgar
Lt Edgar W. Dionne



Chapter One Lemooe CA

Howdy, from the great San Joaquin valley. We had a super Birthday blast in honor of the 70th birthday of the establishment of the AO rate. We even got all dressed up with coats and ties. Our guest speaker was CDR Jeff Stivers, the Commanding Officer of the F/A-18E/F fleet introduction team. A great time was had by all. AOCS Mark Sawyer reenlisted for another term. I think that was the only way we could get CWO2 Mike Hines to wear a tie. He was in uniform to perform the reenlistment. A special "thanks" goes out to Pam Knotts and her team of volunteers for taking the reins and setting up the dinner, door prizes and decorations. WELL DONE, PAM!!!

We are currently working on moving our meetings to what used to be the skeet range on base. Thanks to Mark Sawyer, Jody Barnes and a few other dedicated individuals, we have managed to acquire the building in a joint occupancy agreement between us and the San Joaquin Rod & Gun Club.We have cleaned up the building and thanks to Ron Thomas the inside has been painted. All new furniture has been placed inside. Now Ron is working on painting a AO Logo to put inside the building and AO1 Holland is painting a Logo on the outside. We hope to conduct our first meeting in the building in May. If you're in the area, the date will be 21 May 18:00 (6 pm). The building is located on NAS Lemoore between mainside and ops side.

Recently I had a visitor whom most of you know,. It was Bill Overby. What you probably don't know is that Bill has a motorcycle riding dog named Bubba. No the dog does not drive yet. He's not old enough to have a license. Bubba has his own helmet and riding equipment. If you have a computer and you are on the Internet you can see (or download) a picture of Bill and Bubba at http://www.kingsnet.com/users/byron. This is a link to the photo. You will have to hunt for it on Byron's web pages.

Look for more AAO Internet info in the future. We hope to add memorabilia info and photos. Who knows, maybe someday even the newsletter will be on the NET. Ordies on computers . . . . . now that's dangerous!

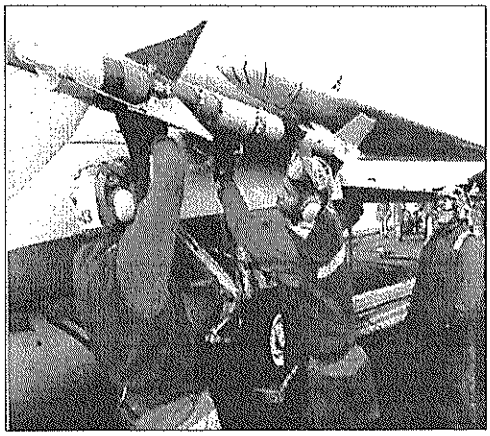
All of us in Chapter One wish Ron Bushta God speed and a quick recovery. Our prayers are with you and your family.

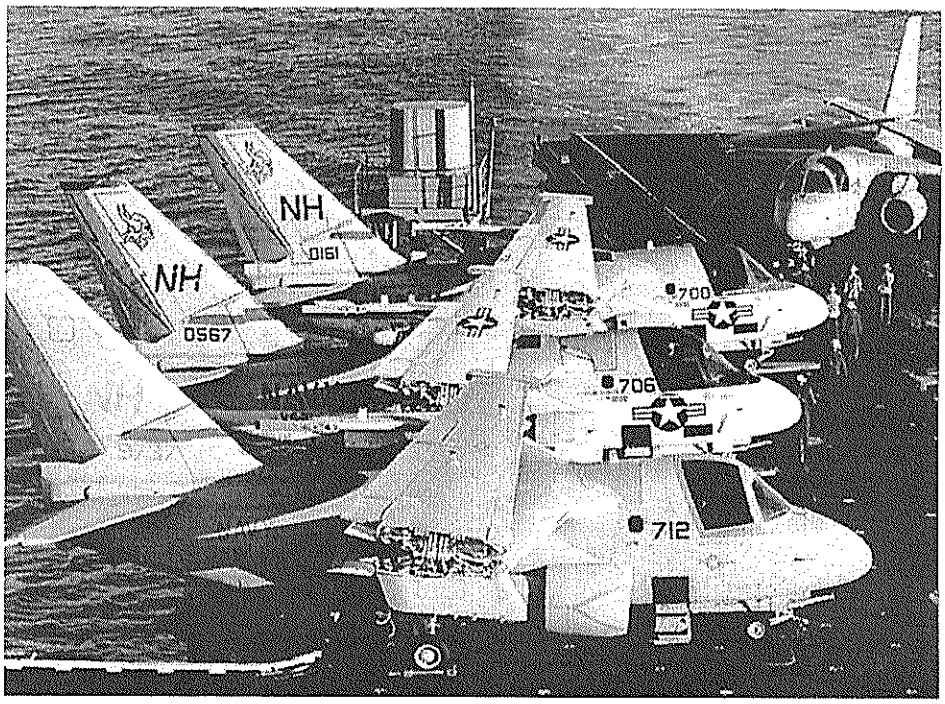
(Continued on page 9)

Chapter IV Tidewater Area

Hello to all ORDIES from Chapter IV in the Tidewater area. As I write, the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen is becoming stronger as a new chapter is establishing within our ranks. They are the men and women from the USS Eisenhower (CVN-69) and will be called "Chapter LXIX." Got to give a "well done" to the crew who initiated the establishing package. They are: AOC (AW) Stafford (President), AO1 (AW/SW) Davis (Vice-President), AO1(AW) Menser (Secretary) and AO1 Gilbert (Treasurer). Also a special thanks to the OHO, LCDR John Wiley, for all of his support to get their chapter up and running.

Having a chapter in close proximity to Chapter IV has a lot of benefits. We are already planning some joint ventures. The first dual function will be "Red Shirt Ranch VIII", 19-21 April. We are expecting 85-100 campers! Next, Chapter LXIX will join us on our first "FOD" walk down, on 27 April 1996. Later in the summer the two chapters will get together for our second annual family beach picnic. I must note, with the recent resurrection of Chapter 65, USS Enterprise (CVN-65) we strongly encourage them to join in. I know it is difficult for Enterprise Ordies to get involved with their demanding work schedule prior to deploying in late summer. However, the invitation goes out any way. "Well done" Chapter 65. Glad to have you all back aboard.





The chapter would like to congratulate the following members on their recent promotions/advancements to the present rank/rate. They are LTJG Paul Hamann, Ordnance Officer VF-102,. LTJG Rafael Monell (from CWO2), Ordnance Officer VA-75, and AO1 Tim Kannel, G-3 Division, USS John C. Stennis CVN-74.

On 1 April 1996, we bid farewell to LCDR James Harman who retired from naval service with thirty years. The CDR was the weapons officer at NAS Oceana. Fortunately, he will stay in the area and is very involved in the Chapter's events and is a Board of Director's member. Best of luck in your retirement Jim!

On 8 March, 1996 the chapter was once again honored by VFW Post #392 during their annual awards ceremony. This was our fifth consecutive award for our strong support of veteran's affairs and our involvement in community services. During the ceremony, the post selects the policeman, fireman, teacher and the students who won the top three honors for their "Voice of Democracy" essays. They are all from the city of Virginia Beach. What made the chapter's award more prestigious this year was the company we were in. GYSGT Carlos "White Father" Hathcock, USMC, Ret. received the policeman of the year award. The Gunny is a volunteer who helped establish the police department's SWAT team and teaches firearms training to the department throughout the year. Some of you ordies may know of Carlos. He was the Marine Corps premier sniper throughout his many tours in Vietnam. He also established the Formal Sniper School at Quantico, Va.

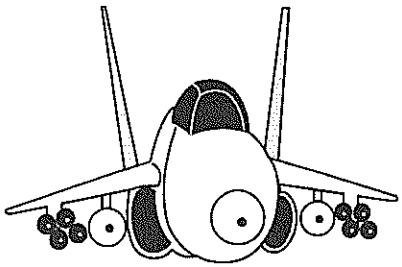
Additional kudos go to the teacher of the year, Ms. Suzie Forehand, CWO4 Tom William's significant other, and a Chapter IV member.

How about Red Shirt Newsletter No. 60! It was of truly professional quality. I've got to commend my old shipmate, LCDR Steve Cashat USN, Ret. for putting together such a great publication. That's from Chapter IV, and an Association Board of Director member.

Chapter IV would like to welcome aboard our newest members: AOCS Bill Swilley, AOC Davis, TM2 Kathy Walsh, AVCM Curtis Smith,USN/Ret and a special welcome to last years AVORDY of the Year, AOC Ron Carpenter.

AOCM Stu Carson USN Ret
Sec/Tres Chapter IV

CHAPTER SEVEN POINT MUGU



Greetings fellow Ordnancemen and friends of Ordnancemen everywhere! We here at Chapter Seven are really looking forward to this year's convention in Laughlin. It will be our first one as a Chapter and we hope to be well represented. We have been busy organizing fund raising activities so we can donate a respectable amount to the Scholarship Fund. . . . . you know, like numbers to the left of the decimal point. See you there!

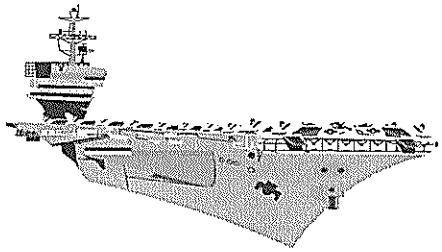
Another thing we are getting excited about here at Point Mugu is the 1996 Air Show in October. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the base and they are planning a HUGE show. That means thousands of people, millions of dollars, and a band of scheming AO's trying to separate the two. . . . Hey, it's for a good cause, right? . . . .

We are all busy preparing for our upcoming "Special Election" in April. It seems that the Department of the Navy, displaying bad form and a total lack of decency and fair play, did deliberately, indiscriminantly, and with malice aforethought, issue PCS orders to our President and our Treasurer just prior to the AO convention. I know you are as appalled as I was. I've asked Congress to pass a Constitutional amendment to prevent such injustices in the future. (In case you're curious, I'm off to the Helicopter Corps at MCAS New River, NC and Chief Carter is rejoining the P-3 Navy at NAS Whidey Island, WA.)

Sadly, this is my last Redshirt article. I hope you have enjoyed reading this and past articles as much as I have enjoyed writing them. It's been an honor and a pleasure to serve as President of Chapter Seven. I challenge the membership to keep it thriving and growing from here on.

See you all down the road. I.Y.O.Y.A.S!

Capt Bob Gross, USMC
President, Chapter Seven



Chapter 70 USS CARL VINSON

A big **Black (W)** hello from Chapter 70. Lets all welcome our following new members: AO2 Gamer, AOAR Pavlus, AOAR Stockwell, AOAR Vanbrunt

AAO business has been a bit slow here at Chapter 70, but we have been able to break from ships business and have some good ole AO fun. We have a few ideas planned once the work-ups are done.

On March 1st, we had a cake cutting ceremony on board the Carl Vinson in the foc'sle. Our youngest AO was one of our newest members, AOAR Vanbrunt, and our oldest AO was AOCM Dickson. With the full department mustered up and the speeches on the history of the AO rate performed by guest speakers', it was a time to remember. (Even when the Vice President didn't have the nerve to pronounce the slogan IYAOYAS in his speech). Well better luck next time, Vice. Following the ceremony we all filed over to Flight Deck Pizza for Beer and Burgers. A great time was had by all.

Currently, we have a contest going on for the best design for our patch. The drawing will be held on the 16th of April. Hope to show you what we have chosen in the next Red Shirt.

As for all our operational commitments, we have gone through with out any flaws. MRCI was an inspection second to none. One more hurdle to go. Our 3M inspection, then we will be on our way. We are all able to breath easier now that the brunt of it is over.

Well that's all for now. Next time we will be reporting from the far east. Hope to have some good stories from there. Remember, once an AO, always an AO. Lets take care of each other.

Scott Britton
Secretary/Treasurer

HAWAII CHAPTER 11

"THE BOOM OF THE PACIFIC!"

It's official, the Hawaii Chapter 11 is back in business! As of January '96, "The Boom of the Pacific" was finally established. After much sweat and hard work, we were finally able to get enough people together to reestablish the long lost Hawaii Chapter. On 24 January 1996 the Hawaii Chapter officers were elected:

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

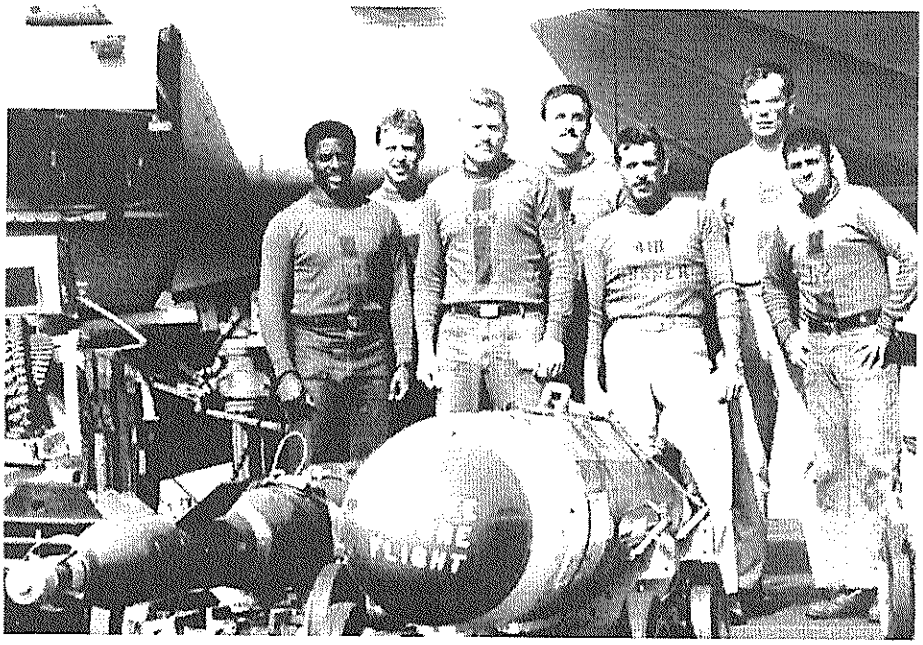
President: AO2 Richard Richards
Vice President: AO1 (AW) Gary McCollum
Sec/Treasurer: AO1 (AW) John Frees
Asst. Sec/Trea: AO2 Howie Wilkinson

It has been a rough start, but we are off and running! We have been conducting car washes in order to raise funds to send our Hawaii representative(s) to the annual AAO convention. Recently, we have even established ourselves in Adopt-a-Roadway program on NAS Barbers Point.

Upcoming events such as beach clean-ups and painting buildings around the base through our local MWR are going to be keeping us very busy! Each month there seems to be more and more faces showing up at meetings, showing that there is a growing interest in membership. With RIM PAC '96 coming up soon here in Hawaii we are planning to join forces in a base-wide AO party. Any interested Chapters who wish to join forces in hosting a get together for our chapter members, please contact Chapter 11 at the following:

AO1 (AW) Frees or AO2 Wilkinson
CPWP WPNS TRNG
NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii 96862-4415
PH: DSN484-9200/Comm (808) 684-9200

AO2 Wilkinson
Asst. Sec/Treasurer Chapter 11



Do you know who or where these ORDIES are? Come to the 1996 AAO convention and find out!

(Continued from page 6)

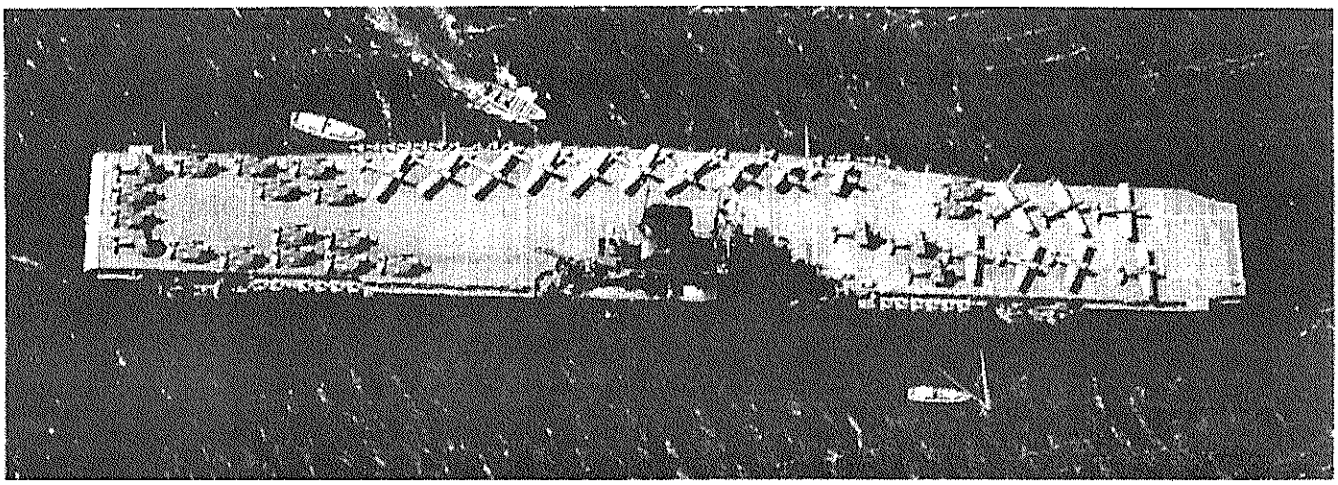
Memorabilia News

We currently are running about 2 to 3 weeks in processing orders. Thanks to the efforts of Dave Moore and Chuck Onken we have streamlined the process. We pick up new mail and mail orders every Friday. Some items we must have made but most on our list are in stock. Our new treasurer (Byron Boudreaux) will be taking over in the next few weeks. We don't anticipate any changes in the way we handle memorabilia. Anyone having any problems or questions about their order please contact us at the below numbers 8:00 to 15:30 PST. We will have a booth or table at the convention.

President Johnny R. Wheat (209) 998-1612
Treasurer Byron Boudreaux (209) 998-1620
Memorabilia Packaging Crew
Dave Moore (209) 998-3567
Chuck Onken (209) 998-3568

That's about it for this time. Just the news you can use. Laughlin in June.

Overhead USS WASP (CV-7). Aircraft on deck include SB2Us and F4Fs. Picture taken JUNE 1942



1996 AO Convention

27 - 30 June 1996

LAUGHLIN, NEVADA

Don Laughlin's RIVERSIDE HOTEL & CASINO Laughlin, Nevada RESORT

1-800/227-3849

Ask For Fantastic AO Room Rates

SUN - Thur $18 + tax

Fri & Sat $30 + tax

Rooms must be under deposit by 1 June to guarantee.

* *

Budget

All The Difference In The World.

Official Car Rental Agency

For Great Discount Airfares and
Budget Rent-a-Car Rates
Call

POINT LOMA WORLD TRAVEL

1-800/783-8646

1996 CONVENTION RESERVATION APPLICATION

	YES	NO
I Plan to Attend the 1996 Convention	_____	_____

I Plan to Attend the Following Activities:

DATE	ACTIVITY	MEMBER	GUEST
27 June (THUR)	Board of Directors Meeting	_____	_____
27 June (THUR)	Attend Safety Meeting	_____	_____
28 June (FRI)	AO of the Year Committee	_____	_____
28 June (FRI)	Scholarship Committee	_____	_____
28 June (FRI)	AO Social (No-Host) Cocktails & Dancing ($15.00 per Person)	_____	_____
29 June (SAT)	General Business Meeting	_____	_____
29 June (SAT)	Awards Buffet Dinner ($20.00 per Person)	_____	_____
30 June (SUN)	Board of Directors	_____	

AUXILIARY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN

28 June (FRI)	Board of Directors Meeting	_____
29 June (SAT)	General Business Meeting	_____
30 June (SUN)	Board of Directors Meeting	_____

NOTES

1. Request that you please bring your AO Name Tag Button (recycle) the AO Association will provide new convention ribbons (*we will also have buttons*).
2. Committee chairman will require assistance for members to participate in this years selection of:
   A. Aviation Ordnanceman of the Year
   B. Three Scholarship Awards
3. Send Money for AO Social and Awards Dinner ONLY.

AMOUNT ENCLOSED $ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Make Checks payable to and mail to:

Association of Aviation Ordnancemen
Billy Earl - Sec/Treasurer
145 Kootenia Creek
Stevensville, MT 59870

NOTE

It is never to early to make your convention reservations.
Contact Jim Thomas for room and travel arrangements

Guest Speaker

VICE ADMIRAL BRENT M. BENNITT UNITED STATES NAVY

Vice Admiral Bennitt was born in Muskegon, Michigan, graduated from the Naval Academy in 1964 and was designated a Naval Aviator eighteen months later. After two combat cruises and 222 combat missions with VA-94, flying the A-4 Skyhawk aboard USS HANCOCK and USS BONINE HOMME RICHARD, he attended the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School and served as an Aircraft Carrier Suitability Test Pilot at the Naval Test Center. This was followed by a tour as a flight test tutor at the Empire Test Pilot School at Boscombe, England. During which he was commended by the Queen of England for valuable service in the air as the school's stall/spin program manager and as one of the development test pilots on England's first variable stability aircraft.

Returning to the United States in 1973, Vice Admiral Bennitt joined VA-83, serving as the Administrative and Maintenance officer while flying the A-7E aboard USS FORRESTAL. He was a member of the team which represented the U. S. Pacific Fleet in the 1974 NATO South weapons delivery competition. A tour as Aide and Flag Lieutenant to the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet was followed by duty as Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of VA-105 aboard USS SARATOGA. During this tour the "Gunslingers" were selected as the top A-7E squadron in the Atlantic Fleet and won the Wade C. McClusky Award, emblematic of the Navy's most outstanding attack squadron.

After leaving VA-105, Vice Admiral Bennitt served as the Attack Training Officer and Flight Hour Funds Program Manager on the staff, Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Following fifteen months of nuclear power training, Vice Admiral Bennitt reported to the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS NINITZ as Executive Officer. In February 1985, Vice Admiral Bennitt assumed command of USS LA SALLE, flagship of Commander, U. S. Middle East Force, forward deployed at Manama, Bahrain. USS LA SALLE participated in joint and allied operations in the U. S. Central Command area of responsibility while steaming in the Arabian Gulf, the Red Sea and Indian Ocean. Vice Admiral Bennitt's next assignment was in Washington, DC, where he served as Acting Director of Aircraft Carrier and Air Station Programs in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

He then received orders as Commanding Officer, USS NIMITZ, taking command on August 28, 1987. USS NIMITZ deployed to the Indian Ocean, provided support to the Republic of Korea during the Olympic Games and operated in the waters off Alaska's Aleutian Islands. In September 1989, Vice Admiral Bennitt was assigned as Deputy Director, Test and Evaluation and Technology Requirements (OP-091B) in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations. In November 1991, he took command of Carrier Group FIVE and Battle Force Seventh Fleet. For its performance during the 1992 deployment to the Arabian Gulf, Vice Admiral Bennitt's Task Force was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation. In October 1993, Vice Admiral Bennitt was assigned as Director, Air Warfare Division in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

Vice Admiral Bennitt's personal decorations include the Legion of Merit (4) Meritorious Service Medal, Individual Air Medals (3), Air Medal Strike Flight (17), Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" (3), and the Vietnamese Air Gallantry Cross.
Vice Admiral Bennitt is married to the former Beverley Diane Brumfield of Southgate, California. The Bennitt's have one daughter, Sarah.

Schedule of Events

27 JUNE 1996 Thursday

1000 - 1600	Registration/Exibits
1030 - TBD	Board of Directors/Chapter Presidents Meeting
1830 - 2000	Colorado Boat Cruise

28 JUNE 1996 Friday

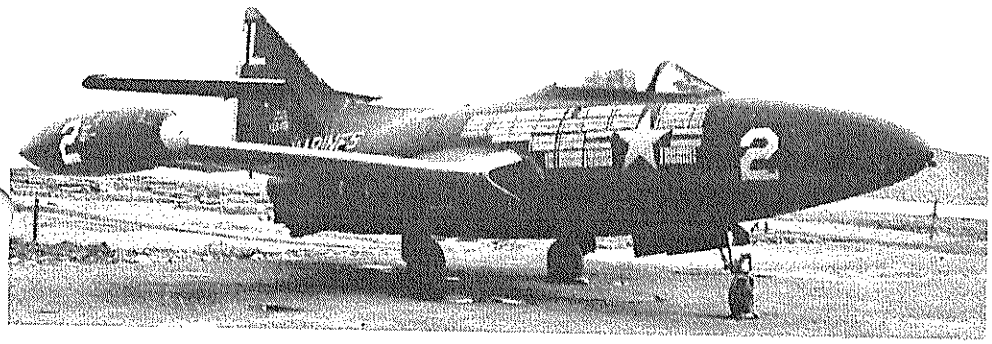
0800 - TBD	Registration/Exhibits
0900 - 1000	Auxiliary Board of Directors Meeting
0900 - 1700	Hall of Fame Committee Meeting
0900 - 1700	Scholarship Committee Meeting
0900 - 1700	AVORDY Committee Meeting
1800 - 2400	Membership Social/ Firehouse Band

29 JUNE 1996 Saturday

0800 - TBD	Registration/Exhibits
0900 - 1500	General Business Meeting
0900 - 1200	Auxiliary General Business Meeting
1600 - 1930	Reunion Book Photo Session
1930 - TBD	Dinner/Guess Speaker/Award Winner Announcements

30 JUNE 1996 Sunday

0900 - 1200	Board of Directors Meeting
0900 - 1200	Auxiliary Board of Directors Meeting
1200	Hotel Check-out

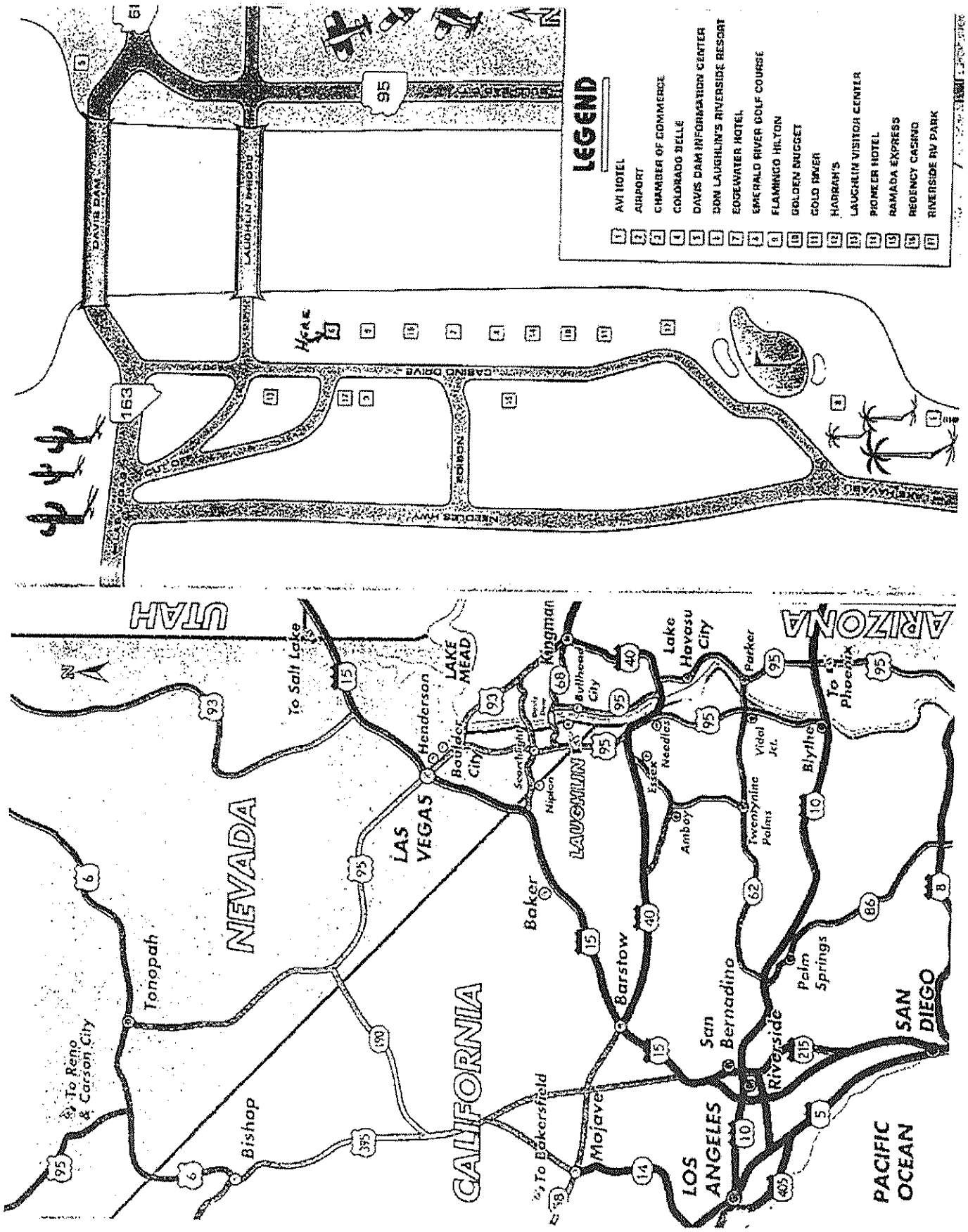


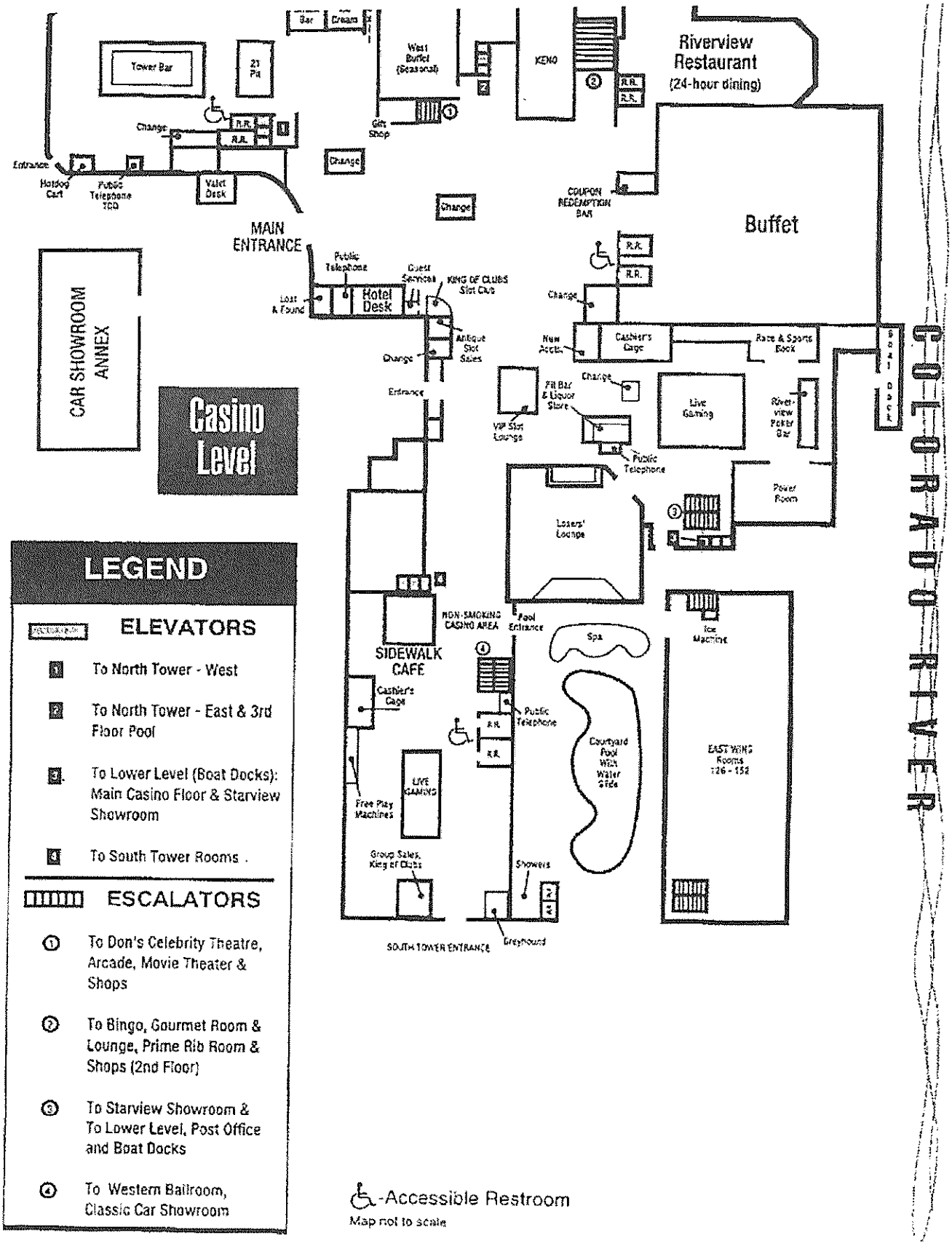
Combat veteran of the Korean War. This F9F from VMF-311 was one of oldest combat planes of its kind in Korea. It accumulated 445 combat missions and flew over 1000 hours in Korea

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

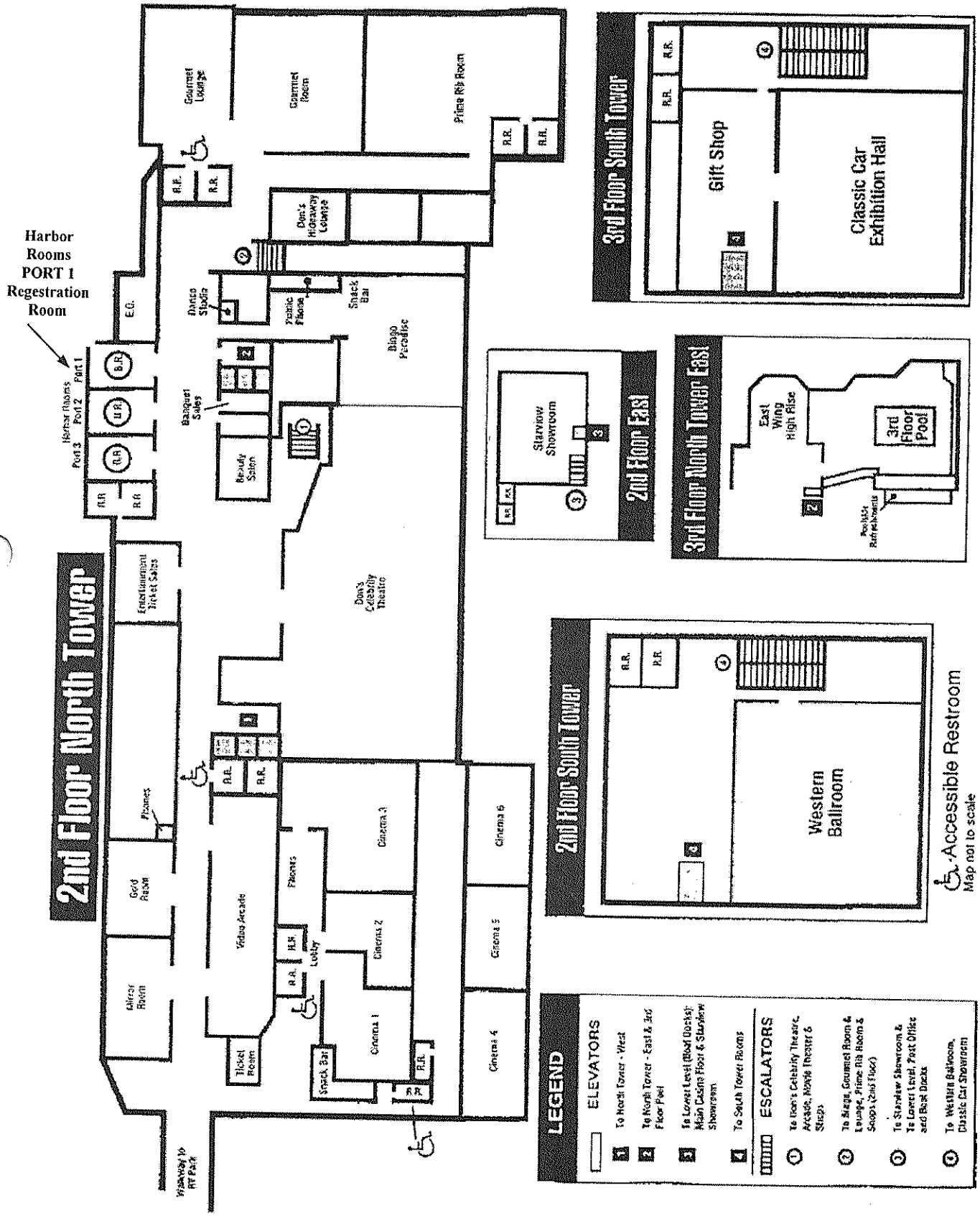
29 JUNE 1996

PRESIDENT	CALL MEETING TO ORDER PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG PLAYING OF THE ORDIE SONG	
CHAPLAIN	OPENING PRAYER	
PRESIDENT	ANNOUNCEMENTS, GENERAL/OFFICIAL	
SEC/TREAS	READ SYNOPSIS OF THE 1995 GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING *(COPIES OF THE COMPLETE MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE TO REVIEW)*	
PRESIDENT	CALL FOR ADDITION/DELETIONS TO MINUTES AND CALL FOR VOTE OF ACCEPTANCE	
SEC/TREAS	PRESENT THE FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATIONS TREASURES AS PREPARED BY THE ASSOCIATIONS ACCOUNTANT (copies available for review)	
PRESIDENT	CALL FOR ANY CLARIFICATION OF THE TREASURE REPORT. CALL FOR VOTE OF ACCEPTANCE	
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORTS	1996 CONVENTION STATUS MEMBERSHIP STATUS SAFETY COMMITTEE BY-LAWS COMMITTEE HISTORIAN AAO MUSEUM	1997 CONVENTION STATUS 1998 CONVENTION STATUS ROBERT L. CROW COMMITTEE JOHN W. FINN COMMITTEE AAO HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE REUNION BOOK
NEWSLETTER REPORT		
CHAPTER REPORTS		
OLD BUSINESS		
NEW BUSINESS	1998 CONVENTION CHAIRMAN 1999 CONVENTION CHAIRMAN BY-LAWS CHANGES & DISCUSSION VOTE	
ELECTION OF OFFICERS	SECRETARY/TREASURER TWO MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AS REQUIRED	
PRESIDENT	NEXT CONVENTION SITE & DATE 1997 CONVENTION COMMITTEE INPUT FROM THE FLOOR CLOSING REMARKS & ANNOUNCEMENTS MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR DEPARTED SHIPMATES	
CHAPLAIN	CLOSING PRAYER	


LEGEND
AVI HOTEL
AIRPORT
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
COLORADO BELLE
DAVIS DAM INFORMATION CENTER
DON LAUGHLIN'S RIVERSIDE RESORT
EDGEWATER HOTEL
EMERALD RIVER GOLF COURSE
FLAMINGO HILTON
GOLDEN NUGGET
GOLD RIVER
HARRAH'S
LAUGHLIN VISITOR CENTER
PIONEER HOTEL
RAMADA EXPRESS
REGENCY CASINO
RIVERSIDE RV PARK
DAVIS DAM
LAUGHLIN BRIDGE
CASINO DRIVE
NEVADA
CALIFORNIA
ARIZONA
UTAH
LAS VEGAS
LAUGHLIN
LAKE MEAD
Henderson
Boulder City
Kingman
Lake Havasu City
Parker
Blythe
To Phoenix
To Salt Lake
To Reno & Carson City
Tonopah
Bishop
Baker
Barstow
Mojave
To Bakersfield
San Bernadino
Riverside
Palm Springs
LOS ANGELES
SAN DIEGO
PACIFIC OCEAN


Riverview Restaurant
(24-hour dining)
Buffet
Tower Bar
21 Pit
West Buffet (Seasonal)
KENO
Gift Shop
Change
Entrance
Hotdog Cart
Public Telephone
Valet Desk
COUPON REDEMPTION BAR
MAIN ENTRANCE
CAR SHOWROOM ANNEX
Public Telephone
Guest Services
KING OF CLUBS Slot Club
Lost & Found
Hotel Desk
Antique Slot Sales
Casino Level
Entrance
Cashier's Cage
Race & Sports Book
Fill Bar & Liquor Store
VIP Slot Lounge
Live Gaming
Riverview Poker Bar
Losers' Lounge
Power Room
NON-SMOKING CASINO AREA
Pool Entrance
Spa
Ice Machine
SIDEWALK CAFE
Cashier's Cage
Public Telephone
Courtyard Pool With Water Slide
EAST WING Rooms 126 - 152
LIVE GAMING
Free Play Machines
Group Sales, Kiwg of Clubs
Showers
SOUTH TOWER ENTRANCE
Greyhound
COLORADO RIVER
LEGEND
ELEVATORS
1 To North Tower - West
2 To North Tower - East & 3rd Floor Pool
3 To Lower Level (Boat Docks): Main Casino Floor & Starview Showroom
4 To South Tower Rooms .
ESCALATORS
① To Don's Celebrity Theatre, Arcade, Movie Theater & Shops
② To Bingo, Gourmet Room & Lounge, Prime Rib Room & Shops (2nd Floor)
③ To Starview Showroom & To Lower Level, Post Office and Boat Docks
④ To Western Ballroom, Classic Car Showroom
-Accessible Restroom
Map not to scale

COLORADO RIVER



PROPOSED CHANGES/REVISIONS TO THE BY-LAWS

ARTICLE III- BASIC POLICIES

ADD NEW SECTION 7

Special travel funding shall be provided for the Secretary/Treasurer and spouse, the previous years AVORDY and spouse, to and from the convention site. A room at convention site for Lt John Finn and wife Alice as long as they live. And to provide funding for travel of newly elected Secretary/Treasurer to the home of the outgoing officer, for the purpose of turn over of files and equipment.

ARTICLE IV- MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

SECTION 1

Change spelling under Article IV, Section I Regular Member the word "Avaition" to "Aviation" Ordnance rating.

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

REWRITE SECTION 1

General meetings of the Association shall be held at a time and location determined by the Convention/ Symposium Committee. The Committee will select a suitable convention site two years in advance of the convention. The Board of Directors will announce the selected site and negotiated price for the membership prior to or during the general business meeting one year in advance of the subject convention.

ADD NEW SECTION 4

There will be no smoking allowed at Committee, General Business, or Board of Directors meetings, and at Annual Awards Function, or other events/functions as approved by the President and Board of Directors. Smoking will be allowed at the Annual Social Functions but members are encouraged to use an appropriate area for smoking.

ARTICLE IX- ESTABLISHMENT OF CHAPTERS

SECTION 8 ADD THE FOLLOWING LAST SENTENCE

The exception to this rule will be allowed by aircraft carriers established as a Chapter, during ship overhaul periods. The chapter will be required to submit a letter of intent to down size during this period of inactivity, with a proposed conclusion date. For administrative purposes, the one year inactivity starts, once the ship overhaul period ends, and for disestablishment criteria.

ADD NEW ARTICLE X - AUXILIARY

Section 1

The Association of Aviation Ordnancemen authorizes an auxiliary, known as the Auxiliary to the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen (AAAO) and chartered by the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen pursuant to its authority as granted by the Commonwealth of Delaware.

Section 2

The governing body of the AAAO is the national Board of Directors of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen and any action taken by the national Board of Directors in relation to the auxiliary shall be subject to the provisions of these by-laws.

ection 3

The AAAO is sponsored by the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen, however, its members shall not pay dues to the national treasury nor shall they have any vote in the affairs of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen.

Section 4

The Association of Aviation Ordnancemen recognizes the AAAO as being organized and chartered by the state of Delaware. The National AAAO and its chapter's which were/shall be organized under said charter shall be recognized by the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen as legally constituted, provided such chapters were recognized by the Board of Directors of the AAAO. Members in good standing under said charter, and who have remained in good standing continuously, shall be considered to have met all membership requirements of the AAAO.

Section 5

The AAAO shall have the authority to establish a national organization, to organize groups to be known as chapters, to levy dues for membership therein, to elect and have national officers, and to adopt a constitution and by-laws and amend same. Said constitution and by-laws and any amendments thereto, shall be submitted to the national Board of Directors of the AAAO for ratification and shall conform to the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen's by-laws as follows:

A. OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION: The AAAO shall not have less than the following national officers; President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and Board of Directors of not less than six (6) members, and such other additional national officers as shall be determined by the AAAO membership, with terms of office, titles and duties as they deem proper.

B. OBJECTIVES/BASIC POLICIES: The AAAO by-laws shall state and establish objectives and basic policies which nform to the by-laws of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen.

C. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES: Membership in the AAAO shall be acquired by the payment of dues as established by the AAAO Board of Directors.

D. MEETINGS. General business meetings of the AAAO shall be conducted at least once annually and during the national convention of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen. The AAAO shall, during the general business meeting of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen, provide a report of its goals, functions, and progress to the general membership of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen. If no member of the AAAO is able to attend the general business meeting of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen, the report shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary/Treasurer of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen to be read by him at the general business meeting.

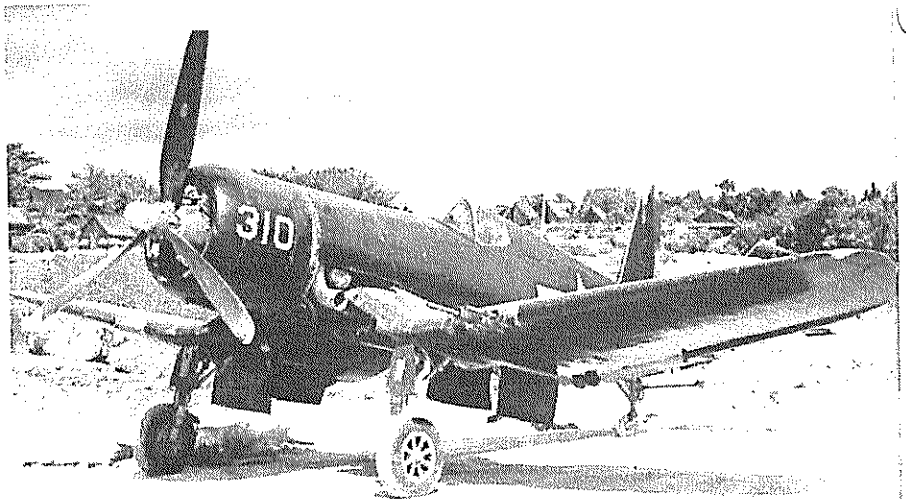
E. COMMITTEES. Establishment of committees shall be in accordance with the AAAO by-laws and approved by the Board of Directors of the AAAO with titles and duties as they deem proper.

F. ESTABLISHMENT OF AAAO CHAPTERS. Establishment of AAAO chapters shall be in accordance with their by-laws and approved by the AAAO Board of Directors.

G. RESPONSIBILITIES. The AAAO shall be responsible to the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen for transactions/information requested by the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen.

MARINE AVIATION ORDNANCE

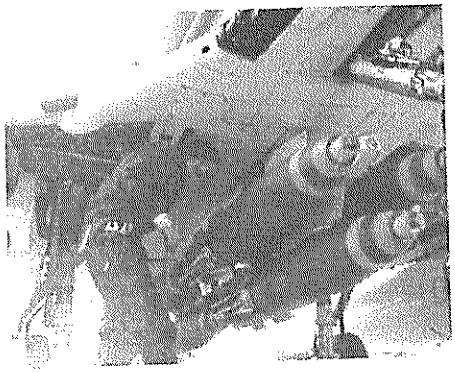
HOW DID IT ALL BEGIN?



I suppose we should consider the man who handed the first grenade to the first pilot who subsequently dropped it in anger, as our first Aviation Ordnanceman. However, this act and the date it occurred is lost in history. In an effort to establish a date which might be used, some time was spent researching both at CMC and the National Archives. To understand the date now claimed as the birthday for Aviation Ordnance, it is necessary to back up and look for a moment at the history of Marine Aviation.

The germ of the idea of Marine Aviation dates, perhaps, from the year 1903, when a young Alfred Austin Cunningham first watched a manned ballon fly and talked its owner into giving him a ride. A year later Cunningham entered the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating in 1909 and chose to become a second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He was continually obsessed with flying and after stirring a congressional tempest, was ordered to the Navy's Aviation camp at Annapolis for flight training on 22 May 1912. There he became the Marine Corps first aviator and Naval aviator number 5. From that date until WW I, Marine aviation was small. Starting with only five officers and thirty enlisted men on the day the United States declared war, the Marines increased their air arm until, by the close of the war they had 282 officers and 2180 enlisted men.

It was during WW I that Marine Aviation first saw combat. In 1918 the Marine First Aviation Force, with one squadron, deployed to the northern coast of France to bomb the German Submarine bases in Belgium. They deployed without aircraft which were to be furnished later. These planes were so long in coming that the restless Marines proposed to the British and the French that Marines fly with them and use their planes. The offer was accepted and the Marines flew with their allies for the rest of the war.



In the two decades that followed WW I, Marine Aviation went into Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua. It was during this era that Aviation Ordnance was finally identified as a separate skill. The document that did this was a Table of Organization (T/O). To understand just how a Table of Organization could establish a skill, it is necessary to trace backwards from the present system of Military Occupational Specialties.

Currently known as Aviation Ordnance and occupational field 65. This has only been true since 1949. From 1942 to 1949 all Marines were identified by their Specification Service Numbers (SSN's). Enlisted ordnancemen were (SSN 991's). Prior to 1942 and through the years Marine Aviation was emerging, the Marine Corps identified their enlisted men through their promotion certificates which were then called Branch Warrants.

Upon graduating from boot camp and until a man was promoted to Corporal he was a Marine with no identifiable skill. On promotion to Corporal, there would appear on the Warrant the words "Corporal" (Aviation). The term "aviation" designated his branch. There was no further break down. The number of branches in the Marine Corps varied from time to time, but generally included such specialties as Aviation, Communications, Engineer, Motor Transport, Ordnance (ground), Artillery and the Infantry (line).

To further identify the skill of a Marine it was necessary to look at the T/O and see what slot the man was filling. The First Aviation T/O's were issued about 1918 and showed only six kinds of personnel; Motor Shop, Erection Shop, Quartermaster, Transportation, Mess and Police. It wasn't until Table of Organization No. 37 was issued on 25 April 1922 that ordnance appeared on a T/O, and when it did, the term used was not ordnance, rather Gunnery personnel. This T/O authorized one Warrant Officer, one Sergeant, one Corporal and one PFC for a Division Aviation. They were assigned six airplanes.

The name Gunnery personnel stayed until Table of Organization No. 43-W was published on 11 September 1925 when the name was changed to Armament personnel. At this time the personnel allowance for a squadron was increased to 3 Marine Gunners, 3 Sergeants, 3 Corporals, and 3 PFC's.

This remained in effect until 6 February 1935 when Table of

(Continued on page 21)

(continued from page 20)

Organization No. 23 changed the name to Ordnance. This authorized an Ordnance strength of one First Lieutenant, One Marine Gunner, one Master Technical Sergeant, one Sergeant, one Corporal and 3 PFC's/Privates. Since that day the title has stayed the same, only the method of identifying has changed.

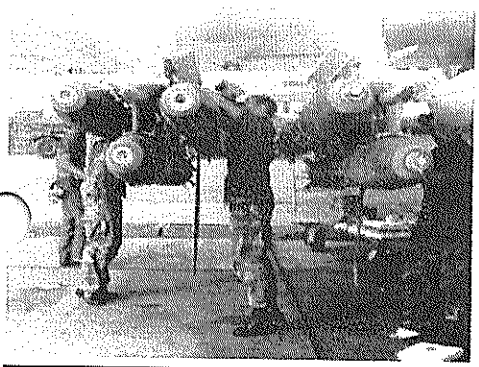
Repost from a 1979 article written by Capt G. H. CONNER, USMC

Early Combat Ordnancemen

On 25 February 1927, VO-1M squadron landed in Nicaraqua to assist the government against the insurrection of Sandini. The squadron consisted of 8 officers and 81 enlisted with 6 DH aircraft. On 23 May, VO-4M arrived and joined VO-IM. The first combat flights began 15 July with strafing and dive bombing. In December, the DH were replaced with the more modern 02U aircraft *(During the operations there were Navy ordnancemen present but numbers are not available. It is known that one was an instructor in AO "A" school at Norfolk in 1940.)*

The first ordnanceman captured by the enemy was Sgt. F.E. Dowell, after the aircraft in which he was backseat gunner, crashed. He is believed to have been tortured and hanged by the Sandinistas.

Also in 1927 other ordnancemen were with Marine aircraft in China but did not load a bomb or fire a gun in anger.



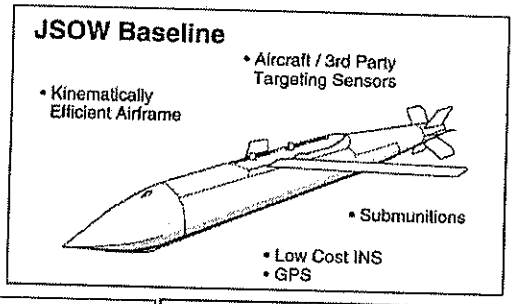
Our next combat ordnancemen were also Marines who were in action December 6, 1941 at Wake Island with VMF 2ll with 12 F4F3 aircraft. The arrival was so rushed on December 4th that the crew consisted of 2 master sergeants, specialty unknown and 45 ordnancemen with one AMMI, probably from the tender WRIGHT.

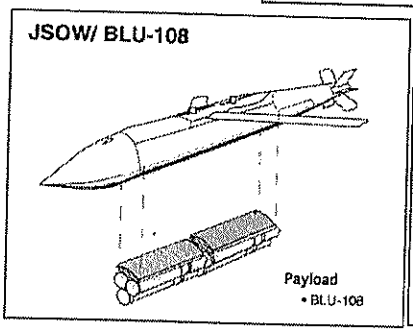
Ordnancemen performed all maintenance as they were very versatile people, as we prove from time to time.

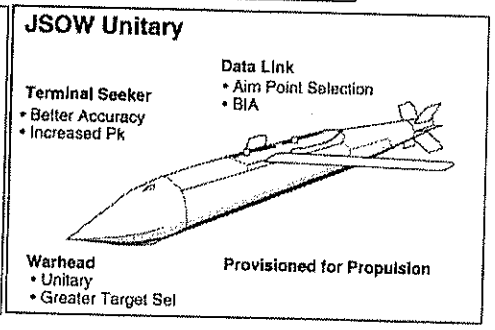
Total ordnance expended until all aircraft were lost, consisted of 20 one hundred pound bombs and 2O,OOO rounds of .50 caliber. The bombs were loaded with suspension lugs hand made on the spot due to problems in configuration. (sound familiar)?

Source: History of Marine Corps Aviation in World War II, by Robert Sherrod 1952.

Ordnance for the year 2000+







The Joint Standoff Weapon (JSOW) is a family of low-cost, air-to-ground weapons which employ a Global Positioning System (GPS)-aided inertial guidance system and a kinematically efficient airframe. The JSOW has an inherent range capability for the Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, that satisfies the standoff requirements for attacking interdiction targets from outside enemy point defenses during day and night and adverse weather conditions. There are currently three configurations of the JSOW vehicle: JSOW Baseline (AGM-154A), JSOW Unitary (AGM-154C), and JSOW/BLU-108 (AGM-154B). All weapon variants are inexpensive, unpowered, and survivable. For payload delivery, they are carried aloft by a host aircraft and launched to the target area from a Standoff Outside Point Defense (SOPD). The JSOW Baseline carries a BLU-97 bomblet-type warhead for use against soft and area targets. The JSOW Unitary variant incorporates an affordable seeker, a man-in-the-loop (MITL) data link capability, and a unitary warhead to strike harder/point targets and enhance overall mission effectiveness. The third variant integrates the Sensor Fuzed Weapon's (SFW's) BLU-108/B submunition payload into the JSOW Baseline weapon to meet the Air Force and Navy requirement to deliver an infrared-seeking, explosively form-penetrator submunition at standoff ranges against moving land combat vehicles. This variant is referred to as JSOW/BLU-108.

Letters To The Editor

Greetings;

I received my latest edition of the "Red Shirt" and as always enjoyed it thoroughly. Thank you for the fine job you are doing.

To observe the birthday of the ordnance rating, I took my favorite hand cannon out to the back yard and fired a one gun salute. I couldn't find anymore rounds.

There are few ordies in this part of the country which makes missing the reunion tough for me, but perhaps we'll have one closer in the future, Memphis perhaps? My boss is a real slave driver and cannot appreciate how important it is for old shipmates to gather and expand on old sea fables.

Once again, thanks for the good work on the news letter.

Cordially
Lew Prince
Sulphur Springs,
Arkansas

CWO-4 Lester B. Tucker, USN Ret.
2610 N. Heller Rd.
Oak Harbor, WA 98277-9217

Thought I had better get this note of information off to you ASAP.

First, to belay any enquires regarding the photo of John Finn with caption I thought it best to get a correction in fast.

Note that John is wearing his rating on his "right arm" and secondly he is called an Aviation Chief Ordnance Mechanic with (AOCM). Exactly three years and 2 days ago John sat here at our table and explained about getting chewed-out by the C.O. for wearing his rating badge on the right arm at his first personnel inspection as a CPO. Seems as though he had ordered his uniforms from Naval Clothing Factory Brooklyn, N.Y. All of them came with the rating badge on the right sleeve. Erroneous of course as he was in the Aviation Branch and only the Seaman Branch wore their rating badges on the right arm at the time - til' 1948. Prior to 30 May 1941 the eagle on the rating badges faced to it's left, therefore to the rear when worn by all except the Seaman Branch personnel. On that date the eagle was changed to look to its right for those who wore the badge on their left arm. By the way, John quickly had the rating badges placed on the correct sleeve - his left. As for the caption, all aviation personnel, from 1921 to 1948, who were CPO's carried the title of Aviation Chief ahead of their specialty except the Chief Aviation Pilots of 1924 - 1933. In John's case it is Aviation Chief Ordnanceman and was abbreviated ACOM. (AOCM designates the present Master Chief Ordnanceman).

I too went from Aviation Chief Ordnanceman in 1948 and abbreviated AOC from ACOM. Regardless of the modern abbreviations for ratings the proper verbal address still requires Chief,Senior Chief, or Master Chief ahead of the specialty.

Sincerely,
Les

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
MEMBERSHGIP DUES $15.00 PER YEAR

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
PHONE: (home) _____ (work) _____
TYPE of MEMBERSHIP: Regular: ( ) Associate: ( ) Sponsor: _____
BRANCH of SERVICE: _____ ACTIVE: ( ) RETIRED: ( )
RATE: _____ RANK: _____ DATES SERVED: _____ TO _____

Under the Freedom of Information Act: I/DO NOT authorized release of my name, address and telephone number to other members or prospective members of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail To: Billy Earl, Sec/Treasurer
145 North Kotenia Creek Road
Stevensville, MT 59870

FEB 95

Trying to Locate/Status

Jermaine H. Ramsey
AOCM (Ret)

Advanced to AOCM Nov 1958 at Atsugi FASRON 11

Retired 1963 USS MIDWAY CV 41

Please contact
Bob Solomon
LCDR/Ret
(619) 691-9328

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN
MEMORABILIA ORDER FORM

1 April 1996
Prices good for 3 months from date shown

ITEM	PRICE	QUANTITY	SPECIFY
DECALS *{OUTSIDE}* 3" OR 5"	$ 1.00	_____	SIZE _____
DECALS *{INSIDE}* 5"	$ 1.00	_____	
PATCHES	$ 4.00	_____	
HATS *{RED/WHITE w/COLOR LOGO}*	$ 7.00	_____	COLOR _____
{BLACK w/GOLD or RED LOGO}	$ 7.00	_____	COLOR _____
TIE TACS *{ASSOC. LOGO}*	$ 3.00	_____	
HAT PINS *{ASSOC. LOGO}*	$ 3.00	_____	
{GOLD AO WINGS}	$ 4.50	_____	
CHARMS	$ 3.00	_____	
KEY RINGS *{GOLD w/LOGO}*	$ 4.00	_____	COLOR _____
STICK PINS	$ 3.00	_____	
BELT BUCKLES *{LARGE ASSOC.LOGO}*	$10.00	_____	
Wood DESK SETS *{ASSOC.LOGO wPEN/PENCIL HOLDERS}*	$10.00	_____	
PEN/PENCIL SETS {CHROME}	$15.00	_____	
{GOLD/CHROME}	$17.00	_____	
{BLUE/GOLD}	$20.00	_____	
ASSOCIATION LASER PLAQUES	$20.00	_____	AAO SYMBOL ONLY _____
			AAO W/ AIRCRAFT _____
KOOL KUPS {RED}	$ 3.50	_____	
COFFEE CUPS *(Ceramic)*	$ 5.00	_____	
16 oz Travel Mug w/ thumb slide	$ 5.00	_____	
& AAO emblem	$ 6.00	_____	
MUGS *(Steins Glass)*	$ 6.00	_____	
T-SHIRTS white w/ AAO in Color	$10.00	_____	SIZE _____
T-SHIRTS ash w/ Pocket	$12.00	_____	SIZE _____
SWEAT SHIRTS {SPECIFY COLOR} {RED OR WHITE}	$15.00	_____	SIZE _____
JACKETS {SPECIFY COLOR} *{BLACK, RED OR WHITE}*	$55.00	_____	SIZE _____
1996 AAO Calendar (366 Drawings)	$20.00	_____	
	SUB TOTAL	_____	
20% SHIPPING AND HANDLING *{APPLIES TO MAIL ORDERS ONLY}*		_____	
	TOTAL ORDERED	_____	

MAIL ALL ORDERS TO:

AAO CHAPTER ONE
P.O BOX 1148
LEMOORE, CA. 93245-1148

ORDER FROM:

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE/ZIP _____
Phone:_(___)_____

PLEASE ALLOW 6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY
PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN, CHAPTER ONE {1}
PLEASE NO CASH OR COD'S.

The Red Shirt
The Association Of Aviation Ordnancemen

President
CDR Gary Laun
117 East Quail LN
La Plata, MD 20646
H (301) 934-4398
W(301) 743-6049 X190

Vice-President
Charles Onken,LCDR/Ret
291 West Spruce Place
Lemoore, CA 93245
H (209) 924-2503

Secretary/Treasurer
Billy Earl, CWO4/Ret
145 North Kootenia Creek
Stevensville, MT 59870
H (406) 777-5494
FAX (406) 777-5891

Editor
Steve Cashat, LCDR/Ret
6387 English Ivy Way
Springfield, VA 22152
H (703) 451-4383
FAX (703) 413-6269

FUN IN THE SUN

1996 AAO CONVENTION 27 - 30 JUNE

LAUGHLIN, NEVADA

Don Laughlin's RIVERSIDE HOTEL & CASINO RESORT
Laughlin, Nevada

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

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BURKE, VA
PERMIT No 6167

FORWARDING & RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

THE ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN

Billy B. Earl
Secretary/Treasurer
145 N. Kootenai Creek Road
Stevensville, MT **59870**