

The Red Shirt

[HTTP://REDSHIRTNATION.COM](http://REDSHIRTNATION.COM)

NEWS LETTER NUMBER 159 FEBRUARY 2026



1000

YEARS



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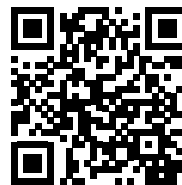
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REDSHIRTNATION.COM

RED SHIRT ARTICLES
20 JANUARY, 1 MAY, 20 SEPTEMBER

PRESIDENT

It is with immense pride that I write to you today on behalf of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen. Across the fleet, from the flight decks of our carriers, amphib, and forward-deployed air stations, you are the steadfast professionals who ensure the fist of American airpower is always ready, always precise, and always lethal.

We are a close-knit community, bound by a unique and demanding craft. It is a truth we all know: "If you ain't ordnance, you ain't shit!" (IYAOYAS). That spirit is alive and well in our AOs making a global impact on multiple fronts. In the Western Hemisphere, our Ordnancemen are at the sharp end of Operation SOUTHERN SPEAR.

Your work in magazines and on the flight deck of the USS GERALD R. FORD and embarked upon other fleet assets is critical. You are assembling, testing, and loading the very ordnance that is dismantling narco-terrorist networks and protecting America's neighborhoods. Each missile you load and every bomb you build directly contributes to the security of our homeland.

At the same time, half a world away, your brothers and sisters-in-arms are sustaining the long and difficult fight in the Horn of Africa. For years, US forces have conducted strikes against Al-Shabaab terrorists in Somalia, and at the heart of every sortie is an AO.

From land-based squadrons to sea-based platforms, you provide the critical link that turns an aircraft into a weapon system. Your tireless effort in maintaining, building and loading munitions ensures that when the call comes, our forces can strike decisively against those who wish us harm.

Whether you are countering threats in the Caribbean or delivering precision strikes in East Africa, your mission is the same: to guarantee that when a pilot is over the target, the ordnance they release is flawless. You are the masters of a dangerous and exacting trade, the quiet professionals who truly put "warheads on foreheads."

On behalf of the entire Association, thank you. Thank you for your sacrifice, your unmatched skill, and your unwavering dedication. We see you, we honor you, and we are immensely proud of the impact you are making around the globe.

The 2026 Convention is rapidly approaching, and it promises to be a great time as we celebrate the 250th year of our great Nation, 100th year of the AO Rating, and the 50th year of our Association! I hope for an incredible turn-out as we honor this time in history! I would be remiss if I did not mention the Aviation Ordnanceman of the Year nominations and the Hall of Fame submissions. Do not miss the opportunity to recognize the deserving individuals that honor us through past and present contributions! I look forward seeing you all about the FLEET and at the various association functions.

Stay safe, and stay lethal.

IYAOYAS, and with deepest respect,

Steve



VICE-PRESIDENT

Ahoy maties!

As usual, I'm writing this after completing another completely successful and absolutely enjoyable planning meeting in Laughlin. We met, conducted some business, broke some bread, had a few adult beverages (or more) and told a whole lot of sea stories. Thanks to Bill and Sue Taylor for your help to Teresa and I in putting this shindig on over the past couple of years and for quite a few more in the future I hope. FYI, I'm in conversations with the Aquarius on another contract so we'll be able to keep this fun going.

I must start off by giving a salute, praise, many-many thanks, to JJ LaMaitre. He's dealing with some health issues right now and was forced to resign as our Secretary, a position he's held since 2014. To say he's kept the Association on a successful path would be an understatement. He kept us all on course and in check. He's not out of the picture in any way, but he didn't want the Association to suffer if he wasn't able to keep up with all of the administrative duties. John, you're a brother, shipmate and a true friend. Thank you for the stick and rudder you've given me (sometimes with a needed club) since I've been a part of this glorious organization. We're all here for you while you fight the fight. The President appointed Bill Taylor to assume the duties as Secretary until the office is voted on this year at convention. Thank you, Bill, for jumping in and keeping us steaming ahead.

As for convention, this year's dates are

July 30th through August 2nd. We'll have the registration and hotel link up on the website around April 1st. We were able to keep the registration fee and dinner tickets at the same cost they were last year, which is actually a win. This year there are (4) offices up for election, Vice President, Secretary and (2) Board of Director positions. We will have a link on the Association website (redshirtnation.com) if you wish to nominate anyone for one of these positions. Another way is to send me an email (nationalaaovp@gmail.com) with the nominee in the CC line. I will respond to get the candidate's consent. Nominations for the above-mentioned offices must be received by 1 April 2026. At convention, nominations will also be taken from the floor during the General Business Meeting (GBM). All nominees must be present at the GBM unless their absence has been previously approved by the Board of Directors. Once nominations close, the website will change from nominations to absentee voting.

Until next time, keep your powder dry
keep each other safe out there.

IYAOYAS

Tim



SECRETARY-JJ LAMAITRE

Greetings Shipmates and Marines – Unfortunately this will be my last input as Secretary of the Association. My health challenges dictate that I step down. It has been a honor and privilege to serve as the Secretary for the past 13 years. Please give Bill Tayor a BIG howdy and thanks for stepping up to the plate and taking over. Pass down was completed in Laughlin over the MLK weekend.

Start NOW to make your plans for this year’s Convention to be held at the Silver Legacy Resort, Reno, NV from July 30th thru August 2nd. NOTE: ALL hotel reservations and registration, Social, and Award banquets MUST be done through the AAO website (redshirtnation.com) after April 1st.

It has been a privilege to serve as your AAO Secretary for the past 13 years. Thank you for your confidence and support.

JJ LaMaitre – Outgoing AAO Secretary



INT-SECRETARY-BILL TAYLOR

Greetings fellow Ordies – My name is Bill Taylor, and I will be the Interim(I) National Secretary until the election cycle in Reno, NV. My plan is to do a great job and earn your vote. JJ left big shoes to fill. We completed the turnover between JJ LaMaitre and myself during the Convention Planning meeting in Laughlin. The email remains the same nationalaaosec@gmail.com.

Start NOW to make your plans for Continuum & Convention. It will be held at the Silver Legacy Resort, Reno, NV from July 30th thru August 2nd. Chapters need to contact JJ or Tess LaMaitre to set up tables to sell merchandise.

Chapter Officers - I need the Chapter Reports forwarded to me on a regular basis, so we do not put your Chapter into an ‘Inactive’ status. Please forward the minutes, etc. to nationalaaosec@gmail.com.

If you have any questions, concerns just ask.

I have been nominated and accepted running for selection as your secretary for an official three year term.

R,

Bill Taylor

(I)AAO Secretary



TREASURER

Our 2026 Convention, 50th year anniversary, is quickly approaching. Please take a hard look now at your plans of attending and get registered early and make hotel reservations early for the 2026 Convention when the website is available.

The 2026 Convention will be held 30 Jul-2 Aug 2026, decide early and get registration completed as soon as possible. The hotel reservation under Group Code (found on registration form) cut-off date for reservations is 1 Jul 2026 through the link on www.redshirtnation.com . Don’t call the hotel, you probably won’t get the Group rate on your

final bill, use the hotel link before the cut-off date.

The cut-off for Convention Registration will be 17 Jul 2026. A late fee of \$10 will be charged after that date for Registration only, NOT any additional fee for each meal, the meal prices will remain the same. Look for all the updated information on the website. All attendees are to pay the Registration Fee, even if only attending one event or no events.

Chapter Officers, take a look at your current membership status and encourage your members

TREASURER

that are not National members to join National. It is easy now, go to www.redshirtnation.com and join via the website. If you are an inactive member, contact me via email and get current on your annual dues or become a Life member. We want you to stay involved and contribute what you can; knowledge, time, expertise or donations. Remember, all elected Chapter Officers are required to be National members in good standing to hold their office, per the National by-laws.

The Annual Chapter Financial Reports are due at the General Business Meeting in Reno. Chapters should submit their annual financial report after the end of May 2026 and before 15 Jul 2026 to the National Treasurer. If your chapter has yet to submit the FY22-23 or FY23-24 or FY24-25 Annual reports, please do so now. Those reports are part of our income tax filing and records. Chapter Treasurer's, if you need the Form for the annual report, email me as soon as possible and I will send you the format.

Also, a new procedure in Appendix A was approved for all Chapters regarding Chapter Bank accounts. DO NOT open Association bank accounts in someone's name and SSN. Contact me for the Tax ID (EIN) 501(c)(6) and open an Association account for your Chapter and have the Chapter # or name listed first on the name of the account. The IRS will come to a member or former Chapter Officer to pay taxes on a Chapter's account income; it has happened before.

Have you had a promotion, change of status (recently retired) or contact info changed? If so, go to the website, print out the membership form, fill out all the information on the form, scan or take a photo of the form, and email to me with a note on the form "Info Update Only." When I get a Renewal Notice card or Red Shirt returned to me, I am removing that person from the Red Shirt mailing list until I have a current mailing address. If you see someone's name on the locator list, let them know. Sign up to get your Red Shirt electronically via the "Info Update Only" method!! You can make the updates via filling out a membership form from the web site (www.redshirtnation.com) and note "Info Update Only" and e-mail them to me at nationalaaotreas@gmail.com. If you see your name on the Locator list, please send an email with your updated address to get the next Red Shirt. If you see someone you know on the Locator, it's because I don't have a current mailing address or email address to send them updated materials.

IYAOYAS!

Thanks,

M. Todd Pendleton, CWO4 (Ret)

(360) 632-7828

nationalaaotreas@gmail.com

National AAO Treasurer



CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

Greetings Ordies – Had a good Pre- Convention meeting in Laughlin over the MLK weekend. Was good to see the regulars and some new faces this year.

Start NOW making plans now for Convention 2026, It's the 35th Anniversary of the Auxiliary, 50th Anniversary of the Association, and 100th Anniversary of the AO Rate to be held at the Silver Legacy Resort Reno, NV from 30 July thru 02 Aug 2026. Chapters need to contact myself or Tess LaMaitre (POC info in the Red Shirt) to set up tables to sell merchandise. Come set up early at the AOLMC starting on Monday 27 July.

Fortunately, we were able to keep our registration, Social, and Award Banquet costs the same as last year. The Association cannot afford to lose money on Convention.

We need inputs in Reno in 2026 for Convention sites for 2028 and beyond. Will need a POC for the proposed site in order to have a smooth transition. A lot of factors go into the decision including meeting spaces, room rates, ease of transportation to and from the airport, and costs associated with those items and more (coffee, meals). In other words, 'Best Bang for the Buck' for the membership. The National leadership is sensitive to the costs of attending Convention and we will continue to strive to hold costs down.

JJ and Tess LaMaitre

Convention Chairman



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Sheryl and I leave for the AAO Convention Planning Meeting in Laughlin tomorrow (it will be long past when you read this). We always look forward to seeing old friends, working out the details of the coming AAO Convention and enjoying fellowship with some of the "Legends" in our business. This year is "EXTRA" special as we will celebrate the Nation's 250th, our Ratings 100th, the Association's 50th and our Auxiliary's 35th. I'd say that rates a "Big Bash", so we hope to see many of you there this (and every) year.

Some fine Ordnancemen (and some of their wives) have mustered with the Supreme Commander since our last Convention and I presume, sadly, some more will follow. When you celebrate major milestones, it also indicates that we are all getting older, a fact of life. That said, please reach out to those "saltier" Ordies and those who are struggling with health concerns near your Chapters and spend time with them, trade some "sea stories", enjoy the fellowship, respect and learn from them while you can.

A young AO Airman was killed recently along with her roommate (from a neighboring squadron) by another Sailor who also lived in the same home. Whatever the cause or circumstance that led up to this tragedy, there is no reason to let any situation allow you to take another's life (and forfeit yours in the process). If you are struggling with anger, please reach out to anyone who will listen (myself included) or contact anyone or any outreach program that can help before you do something you'll regret the rest of your days.

God loves each and every one of us and will always listen.

Steve Varga

AAO National Chaplain

IN SUPREME COMMANDERS SERVICE

AOCM DENNIS E. JOKINEN***
MR. LAWRENCE R. DOYLE SR.***
LCDR CHARLES R. MACH***
AOC WALLACE M. SMITH***
AOAN ELISHA J. PERKINS***

SSGT RONALD SHOTWELL, USMC***
MRS. LINDA SCOTT***
AOAN JORDYN FORRESTIER***
AO3 CHRISTOPHER CORONADO***

* INFO FROM FRA TODAY NEWSLETTER / ** INFO FROM VFW MAGAZINE / *** OTHER

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

SSgt Rance Rea
AO3 Shaun W. Lightfoot
Ms. Carol Knott
AO1 Chris E. Geschwender
SSgt Michael E. Holmes
AOC Korey J Dismus
AO1 DeAnthony J. Williams
AO3 Michael Sliker
AO1 Juan J. Arguello
AOCS Edward "Bob" R. Kline

AO2 Jessw M. Evans
AO1 Jacob P. Lee
AOC Bill C. Wright
LtCol Alfredo Topete, USMC
AO1 Juan J. Arguello
AOC Sheridan M. Palmer
AO2 Kate T. Palmer
MAJ Eric J. McCoy USMC
AO1 Matthew L. Allande

NEW MEMBERS

AO2 Leonel M. De La Cruz
AOC Zachary M. Owen
AO3 Cameron M. Griffith
AO2 Julius Fields
AO2 Caleb M. Stephens
AO1 Alyssa A. Thompson
AO3 Isabel Rames
Sgt Miguelangel Lopez, USMC
AO1 Molly C. Fahrenthold
AOAN Taylor N. Stewart
AO1 Amanda J. Cabral

AO2 Kalani N. Kratz
AOAN Shundin Bezahaloni-Yazzie
AO1 Gregory A. Banks
AO1 Sheaira B. Johnson
AOC Joshua D. Goodrich
AO3 Jeffrey D. Price
AO1 Lars R. Nelsen
AO2 Alondra Z. Zamoragarcia
AO1 Robert E. Smith
AO1 Jonathan L. Wright
AO2 Rick D. Riffel

LOCATOR

Can you help? Know where any of these members can be located? Let them know to go to redshirtnation.com, fill out the membership form to update contact info and if you have a mailing address or phone number, please contact me at

AO1 Nicholas C. Storie (RN)
AO2 Jhassper Q. Santiago (RN)
AO1 Rudy A. Ortiz (RN)
AO2 Saria S. Frazil (RN)
AO1 Christopher C. Stricklin (NC)
AO3 Robert L. Bennett (NC)

LT Vertellis D. Garrett (RN)
AO1 Wanda E. Carrasquillo (RN)
AOAN Calvin J. Clark (NC)
AO1 Zachary J. Zehner (New Packet Rtn)

NOTES: (RN) = RENEWAL NOTICE RETURN / (RS) = RED SHIRT RETURN / (NC) = 2 YEARS NO CONTACT

SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTORS

CWO3 Barry Stemler
Mrs. Beverly J. Onken
LDCR Johnny R. Wheat
Chapter 8
AO1 Michael D. Rogers
Fleet Pride (on behalf of Linda Scott)
AO2 Alissa L. Almaguer

TruckPro, LLC (on behalf of Linda Scott)
AOC Sheridan M. Palmer
AO2 Kate T. Palmer
MAJ Eric J. McCoy USMC
AO1 Jonathan L. Wright
AO1 Matthew L. Allande



AAAO

Hello!

We just finished up with another successful planning meeting for convention this year in Laughlin. Thank you to all of you that came out and attended. We had some new faces this year and it was great.

Thank you to Bill and Sue for being such great partners in all the festivities.

We got lots of business done as well, speaking for the Auxiliary we made some great decisions on some outstanding items for convention.

Speaking of convention please keep us in mind if anyone has some item/items that you would like to donate for the auction to support our scholarship program.

Reach out to me treasz@sbcglobal.net.

I hope all of you had a nice holiday and are surviving the winter months. Spring is around the corner. And then before you know it July will be here. I always look forward to seeing folks we don't get to see often.

Teresa Zimmer



CHAPTER LISTING

FIND YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER OR START ONE IN YOUR AREA.
GO TO WWW.REDSHIRTNATION.COM/ FOR THE APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES.
MANY CHAPTERS ARE DELINQUENT OF MINUTES NOT BEING SUBMITTED.

AS PER THE AAO NATIONAL BYLAWS, IF MINUTES, CORRESPONDENCE, AND TREASURER REPORTS HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED FOR ONE (1) CONSECUTIVE YEAR, THE CHAPTER WILL BE SENT A WARNING LETTER OF DISESTABLISHMENT. IF CORRESPONDENCE IS STILL NOT RECEIVED, THE CHAPTER WILL BE OFFICIALLY DISESTABLISHED

Chapter 1 - Lemoore, CA

President-Christopher Hathaway
Vice-President- AOC Christopher Masterson
Secretary-AO3 Evet Gutierrez
Treasurer-Johnny Wheat
Fleet Reserve Club, D Street,
Lemoore CA
3rd Thursday, 1730

Chapter 3 - Whidbey Island, WA

President- Niomi Demichele
Vice President – Andrew Walker
Secretary- Collin Bosley
Treasurer- Albert Baca
Board of Directors
Nikki Reiter, Damon McGinty,
Tiffany Voakes, Taylor Serr,
Enrique Flores
VFW Post 3037
Fourth Wed of the month, 1130

Chapter 4 - Virginia Beach, VA

President - AO1 Brittaney Hernandez
Vice President - AO1 Zachary Zehner
Treasurer - CWO4(Ret) Ron Jerasa
Secretary - AO1 Kristen BrownVA Beach VFW #392,
2408 Bowland Pkwy,
Virginia Beach VA
3rd Wednesday, 1800

Chapter 5 - China Lake, CA

President- Joshua Edwards;
ejedwards13@gmail.com
Vice President- Anai Hudgens;
anaigonzaalez58@gmail.com
Secretary- Steve Gentry;
spgentry6541@gmail.com
Treasurer- Christal Bennett
Board of Directors:
Cody Smegner

smegner.cody@gmail.com
Steve Maxwell
smaxwell@synecsolu.com
Greg Paulsen
paulsengt@gmail.com
VFW 4080, 117 N. Alvord
Last Flex Thursday of Month,
1800

Chapter 8 - San Diego, CA

President- AO1 Jane Park
Vice-President- AO3 Jose Luna
Secretary- AO1 Donald Cowgill
Treasurer-Barry Stemler
bstemler36@gmail.com
Board of Directors:
CWO4(Ret)Gunner Goose
CWO4(Ret)Lester Gipson
AOCM(Ret)Diane Mcqueen-
Gipson
AO1 Quentin Tabb
AO1 Max Mistecka
American Legion Post 255,
National City
1st Thursday, 1900

Chapter 9 - Jacksonville, FL

President: AO1 Murphy (HSM 46)
Vice President: CDR (ret) Mike Gramolini
Treasurer: AOCM (ret) Rick Wyman
Board of Directors:
AOC Lester (CNATTU JAX)
AO2 Jackson(NMC JAX)
AO3 Shayhorn (HSM 46)
Fleet Reserve, Collins Road
3rd Thursday, 1900

Chapter 11 - Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii

DISESTABLISHED

Chapter 21 - Fallon, NV

President- AO2 Arin Felton

Vice-President- AO2 Christopher Bennett
Secretary- AO2 Bailey Kennedy
Treasurer- AO2 Ashley Li
American Legion Post 16 Fallon,
NV.
1st Wednesday, 1830

Chapter 22 - Patuxent River

President: AO2 Emmanuel (EJ) Yiaadeyadoga
Vice-President: Vacant
Treasurer: Rob Pavel
Secretary: Ellen Bailey
Board of Directors:
Tom Brouwer
LT Chris Shelton
Mike Bruns
Mel Swartz
VFW, Post 2632 California, MD
3rd Wednesday, 1800

Chapter 34 - Pensacola, FL

President-AO1 Zachary Snider
chapter34ordie@gmail.com
Vice-President: AO1 Victor Tovar
Treasurer- AO1 Ashley Brown
Treasurer- SGT Nathan McLain
Secretary- AO1 Kyliegh Love
Public Affairs Officer- AO2 Nicole Ruskbonilla
Master at Arms- AO2 Jeremiah Acosta
O'riley's Irish Pub downtown
321 S Palafox St, Pensacola, FL
1st Wednesday, 1830

Chapter 35 - Lightning Chapter

President-AO1 Garrett Ly-Kinhan
CNATT Det Eglin JSF F-35 ATC
3rd Thursday, 1500

Chapter 39 -

Dude Gilbert Beaufort, SC

DISESTABLISHED

Chapter 671 - Guam

President- Mikko Delosreyes

Molly McGee's onboard Naval Base Guam
3rd Thursday, 1900

Chapter 805 - Point Mugu

Chapter Desert Southwest -

El Centro, CA.

DISESTABLISHED

Chapter LHD 4 - Gator Chapter

DISESTABLISHED

Chapter LHD 7 - USS Iwo Jima

President- AO1 Rosalie A. Lashley

On Board

Chapter LHD 8 - USS Makin Island

DISESTABLISHED

Chapter CVN 68 - USS Nimitz

President- AOC Wilson Leiva

Secretary- AO1 Brandon Barber

Treasurer- AOC Andrew Reimund

PAO- Tyler Nicolet

On Board

Chapter CVN 69 -

USS Dwight D Eisenhower

President- AO1 Justin Rives

ssphiend08@gmail.com

Vice-President: AO1 Adrienne Anderson

Secretary- AO2 Alvaro Benitez

Treasurer- AO2 Brian Michel

On Board

Chapter CVN 70 - USS Carl Vinson

President- AO1 Kittles

Vice-President- AO1 Halcomb

Secretary- AO1 Oclima

Treasurer- AO2 Blackmon

MA: AO1 Masolo

On Board

Chapter CVN 71 -

USS Theodore Roosevelt

President- AO1 Jose Pando

On Board

Chapter CVN 72 -

USS Abraham Lincoln

President- AO1 Chris Geschwender

Geschie805@gmail.com

Vice-President- AO1 Sophia Mattos

Sophiamattos00@gmail.com

Secretary- AO2 Hannah Getz,
Hannagetz21@gmail.com

Treasurer- AO1 Anthony Harrison

Harrisonanthony2008@gmail.com

Public Affairs- YNSN Devonte Legier

Training- AO2 Harvey Cappel

Community Service- AOAN Shakeem Brown

Master At Arms- AOAN Austin Tolber

MWR- AOAN Allen Andrada

On Board

Chapter CVN 73 -

USS George Washington

President- AO1 Derrick MinnittSharp

Vice-President- AO1 Ashley Ketchup

Secretary- AO1 Wanda Carrasquillo

Treasurer- AO1 Julian Colbert

Master-at-Arms- AO2 Christian Carter

On-Board

Chapter CVN 74 -

USS John C. Stennis

President- AO1 Benjamin Llewellyn

On Board

Chapter CVN 75 -

USS Harry S. Truman

President- AO1 Dixon

Vice-President- AO1 Flowers

Master at Arms- AO1 Everett

PAO- AO3 Nichols

Secretary- AO3 Bates

Treasurer- AO2 Crider

On Board

Chapter 76 - USS Ronald Reagan

President- Andrew Dominguez
andrewdominguez1994@yahoo.com

Vice-President- Celine Delpesh
delpesh@icloud.com

Secretary- Elisnett Velez
elisnettvelez@gmail.com

Treasurer- Orlando Wheatley
orlandowheatley@gmail.com

On Board

Chapter 77 -

USS George H.W. Bush

President-AO1 Everett

Vice-President-AO2 Urquijo

Secretary-AO2 Salcedo

Treasurer-AO1 Francois

Master At Arms-AO3 Stromile

On Board

Chapter CVN 78 -

USS Gerald Ford

President-AO1 Livermon

Vice President-AO1 Braunius

VFW Post 3160 111 A View,
Norfolk, VA

Last Thursday of every month,
1400

Chapter Southernmost -

Key West, FL

Sunset Lounge, at Sigsbee
ANNEX

Chapter Spartan-

Souda Bay, Greece

President-AO1 Gilmore Estrill

Meeting Time and Location Varies

3rd Thursday of the month



Greetings from Lemoore, CA and Chapter ONE,

We hope you had wonderful and prosperous holidays. As we are coming into the New Year we want to thank AOC Dominguez and AOC Valdivia for an amazing job once again in setting up for our Annual Holiday party and a huge thank you to everyone that showed up and we hope you all had a great time.

We continue to participate in the Cal-Trans Adopt-a-Highway Program and greatly appreciate all who volunteer their time to support the cause. We couldn't do it without you.

Welcome back to CVW-17 and everyone in VFA-22, VFA-146, VFA-137, and VFA-94 after a successful deployment. Thanks for keeping us safe here at home. To CAG-9 and everyone in VFA-14, VFA-151, VFA-41, good luck on your deployment and hope everyone come back safe. To all training and prepping for deployment, be safe and keep your head on a swivel. We appreciate your sacrifices and all that you do.

Also, if you find yourself in our area on the third Thursday of the month, please stop by FRA Club 261 at 17:30 for a cold beverage and share in the meeting. Until next time, take care and stay safe.

Juan Dominguezgarcia
Chapter ONE Vice President



AAO Chapter 3 Red Shirt Inputs for 1 Oct – 20 Jan

Red Shirt Input: Chapter 3 Update

Hello again from Chapter 3, Whidbey Island, Washington! Over the past three months, we have successfully conducted four meetings, held on the third Wednesday of each month, under the former leadership of our President, AO1 Duprey.

Our cabinet has new leadership! Chapter 3 Aviation Ordnance Association now has Naomi DeMichele as the acting President, Andrew Walker as Vice President, and Albert Baca as Treasurer. As we mentioned in the previous Red Shirt Input, this is just the beginning of what will become a thriving Association in the Pacific Northwest. During this period, Chapter 3 has welcomed a few new members: CWO3 Saudia Sutton, Abigail Freeman, John Riekema, and Albert Baca.

During the month of November, we were able to raise money for eight Ordnancemen on NASWI (Naval Air Station Whidbey Island) whom the Squadrons felt needed assistance. Each Squadron's AO chain of command submitted requests right before the Thanksgiving holiday season for Chapter 3 to provide support. The Chapter was able to obtain gift cards for those Ordnancemen and their families to ensure they enjoyed a bountiful Thanksgiving meal.

RED SHIRT



In the last couple of weeks of November, we also sponsored a Toys for Tots drive on NASWI and in the local community, where we collected four full boxes of unwrapped toys that contributed to the 150 boxes received by the main Toys for Tots area in Seattle. The Chapter hosted a get-together at Lava Louie's in down town Oak Harbor, WA to sell merchandise and invite current and retired Ordnancemen to swap sailor stories and build friendships.

On January 16, the President and Secretary drove the flight line of NASWI to sell sponsored merchandise from the Chapter. Many items were sold, including our new Chapter 3 shirts, IYAOYAS crayon patches, and poker chip coins. At the start of the new year, the Chapter placed an order for 60 new black hoodies featuring a portrait in skeleton design of our hero, Retired Lt. John Finn, shooting down planes during World War II. We received the hoodies by January 10 and sold out completely on January 16. Many of our new red Chapter 3 shirts also sold out, mostly in large sizes, but with the funds raised, more merchandise will be on order soon.

Chapter 3 extends its loudest “IYAOYAS!” to all members and hopes you had a glorious spring as we kick into the summer. Here’s to next time—let us continue our mission of excellence. IYAOYAS!

Respectfully,

AO1 (AW/SW) Collin Bosley
Secretary, Chapter 3



Tidewater Chapter IV is proud to share highlights from a season marked by renewed engagement, meaningful service, and continued growth. Stronger Together - Attendance at our monthly meetings has steadily increased over the past year—an encouraging trend that reflects the commitment and enthusiasm of our chapter membership. A Distinguished Guest Among Us - We were privileged to host Rear Admiral Julie Treanor, former Director of Ordnance and Supply (N41), US Fleet Forces Command, at our June General Business Meeting. RADM Treanor’s experience in aviation ordnance logistics at the flag level offered powerful insights and sparked valuable discussions among attendees.



At the September NAS Oceana Airshow, the “Blue Angels” were flying high, while chapter memorabilia sales and new member sign-ups reached record highs—a thundering success that was headed up by AO1 Brittney Hernandez, Mrs. Pat Edon, AO1 Juanita Newton, CWO4 (Ret) Ron Jerasa and AO1 Zack Zehner.



Community Commitment in Action - Our monthly "Clean the Park" initiatives at Oceana Gardens continue to make a real difference in our community. The teamwork and spirit shown by our members and families reflect not only our core values but also our continued investment in the local area we call home.



The fall chapter Holiday Food Drive, in conjunction with the "Taste of Home" project, were highly successful. Headed up by AOC (Ret) Dale Oran and CWO4 (Ret) Ron Jerasa collected more than twenty turkeys to donate to VFW Post 392 for Thanksgiving baskets benefiting veterans in need, and the chapter's Taste of Home initiative—led by Mrs. Pat Edon—resulted in several boxes of treats and essential quality-of-life items being shipped to our deployed shipmates aboard the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78).

Wreaths Across America was another opportunity for our chapter to give back and honor those who have served. Headed by LT (Ret) Joe Mahachek, several chapter members gathered to lay wreaths at the Virginia Beach Princess Anne Memorial Cemetery. Commander Jim Fish was the event Guest Speaker and Captain Steve Folsom and AO1 Brittany Hernandez formally laid the "1st Wreath" joining a nationwide effort to remember the fallen and teach future generations about the value of sacrifice. The event was marked by solemn reflection and a shared sense of purpose, reinforcing the bonds within our chapter as we moved into the holiday season.

The annual Holiday Potluck Social took place on December 10th with a strong turnout. The event, organized by AO1 Brittany Hernandez and Mrs. Pat Edon, featured plenty of food and activities. Pat Edon won the raffle for the AIM 120 AMRRAM Missile (Model), thanks to donations from CDR Jim Fish and Gunner (Select) Joe Kuaki.

AO CHAPTER IV ADDITIONAL ARTICLE SUBMITTED BY AOCS (RET) FRANK ROUGH

A Flight Deck Wake-Up Call

Vietnam War, 1966 — USS Kitty Hawk

By Frank E. Rough, AOCS, USN (Ret.)

VA-85 "Black Falcons" A-6A Intruders

It was sunrise off the coast of North Vietnam when my team got the call—an ALFA Strike was underway, and we were up. I'd been resting my head on a cartridge bag when my team leader kicked it and barked:

"Saddle up—we've got ourselves an ALFA STRIKE!"

We had six aircraft to load, each with 28 five-hundred-pound bombs. Our crew was working fast using an AERO-12B skid and hernia bar to hand lift each bomb up onto the shoulder station of the MBR (Multiple Bomb Rack). I was the Curl Man—my job was to roll the lugs in alignment with the rack to be snapped in place. With the noise on Standard procedure said to leave the safety pins in until launch. But to save time, we'd started checking the locks early and removing the pins before heading to the catapult.

THAT CHANGE COST ME.

In the rush, the loaders let go of the bomb before I had a chance to get my arms out. The full weight dropped—straight into my outstretched arms. I felt my shoulder tear as the bomb flipped me over and slammed me down onto the flight deck.

I lay there, stunned and unable to move. A few moments later, the medical team arrived.

Lessons Learned

That morning changed how I saw risk and loading procedures. Procedures laid out in the loading manuals and checklists exist for a reason—every skipped step, no matter how small, can have lasting consequences. For Ordnancemen working in high-tempo environments, safety isn't optional. It's survival.



AAO Chapter 8 Red Shirt Inputs for Sep-Dec 25

Greetings from Chapter 8 in sunny San Diego, “Where it all started.”

Since September our Chapter’s membership has continued to grow, and we have added seven new Lifetime Members.

In September, AO1 Park replaced AOC (Sel) Tristan Granaas as our Chapter President. AO2 Luna was elected as our Vice President, and AO1 Cowgill as Secretary,

At the October 2nd AAO Chapter meeting, we celebrated Mr. Tom Crosby’s 92nd Birthday with a cake cutting!!! It’s an honor to have Tom and former child Prisoner of War as an active member of our Chapter.

At the November 6th AAO Chapter meeting, Chapter member Carol Knot was presented with a certificate as an Honorary Member of AAO Chapter 8 as well as a certificate and card certifying her as an Associate Life member of the AAO National. Additionally, HMC (Ret) William “Doc” Reid (Honorary AO) was recognized and presented with a certificate as an Honorary AO Master Chief. Doc is a longtime supporter of AOs and a huge supporter of our Chapter.

On November 8th, several Chapter members attended a Salute to Veterans Day parade/ceremony in National City where this year Grand Master of Ceremonies was

our very own chapter member Mr. Tom Crosby. Additionally, San Diego Fox News did a segment honoring Mr. Tom Crosby.

At the December 4th AAO Chapter meeting, AO1 Jane Park was awarded our AO of the Quarter, 3rd Quarter 2025! We would like to congratulate and acknowledge her for her selection, consistent dedication and hard work in support of the Chapter.

During November and December, the Chapter held its annual Jason P. May Holiday Hand Up. The Chapter awarded five AO families in November and two families in December with \$100 VISA gifts each to help them through the holidays. The Chapter would like to thank Barry Stemler, and AOC Granaas for presenting the gift cards to the various commands and the board of directors for their superb coordination.

Until next time, may our chapter continue to flourish and thrive. IYAOYAS!

Chapter 8’s current Leadership.

President: AO1 Jane Park VP: AO2 Jose Luna
Sec: AO1 Donald Cowgill Treas: CWO3 (Ret) Barry Stemler

BOD: CWO4 (Ret) David “Goose” Nelson, CWO4 (Ret) Lester Gipson, AOCM (Ret) Diane Mcqueen-Gipson, AO1 (AD) Quentin Tabb, AO1 (AD) Max Mistecka

V/R

Donald M Cowgill
Chapter 8 Secretary

Greetings and latest news from Chapter 9.

With a heavy heart, we recently had to say a final farewell to two very influential people who impacted our Chapter greatly over the years. Linda Scott, wife of CWO4 Ed Scott (2017), Auxiliary President for many years, died in early December. She and husband Ed were deeply committed to education and the National Scholarship program as well as faithfully sending "care packages" to deployed "ordie" shops for comfort. When her health allowed, she never missed a Chapter meeting. As we were getting over this loss, word came that retired LCDR Chuck Mach had died just after the holidays. He was a faithful supporter of AAO9. Our prayers go up for both families, they will be sorely missed.

Since our last report, our revamped Chapter coins have arrived and are available for sale, AOC Lindsay Smack, Chapter Secretary and new member of the National BOD retired from active duty, the Government shut-down resulted in the cancellation of all military participation in the annual October "Blue Angels" Air Show. Annually, this event is a major fund raiser for donations to AAO scholarships. Life goes on. Thankfully, we were again able to help six local struggling AO families over the holidays with \$100 gift cards as a leg up. Meeting participation continues to rise.

Our BOD has approved a new policy, each year, we will now select a Chapter 9 AO of the year from the four AO of the Quarter selections for the calendar year. Criteria will include Local command impact as well as Chapter 9 impact. Recognition will include a special plaque and letter from the Chapter President for their Service Record.

Plans are in work for a special celebration for the AO Rating turning 100 in March. What a milestone. Happy AO birthday to all of you.

2026 is on the fast track, each year seems to pick up more speed. Look out for each other and be proud of the AO legacy and do your best to support your local Chapter. IYAOYAS!!!!!! See you at the Convention, don't miss out.

AOCM (USN,Ret) Richard Wyman



Attached is a photograph taken during Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Chapter 76 Warrior Toughness event. This event was used to help guide Sailors to reach their highest performance levels. These performance psychology techniques and strategies focus on training competency and composure.





Greetings from Chapter 21 – Ordnancetown USA,

Since the 2025 Convention, our cabinet members held a president election in October. We appreciate everything that AO2 Li, Ashley has done for Chapter 21! Not only did she do an amazing job and made an impact on this community, but she continues to be an outstanding ordie here at NMC DET Fallon as the G-1 Flight Line Supervisor. Thank you for all you have done AO2 Li! With that, please welcome our new president, AO1 Thompson, Alyssa.

Our Chapter Participated in the town’s Spooktacular Halloween Trunk or Treat here in Fallon and doing so we loved being a part of fun and safe place for families to go with their littles!

In October, at NMC Fallon and NAWDC supported two CAGs and two Top Gun Curriculums for our fleets pre deployment trainings with issuing our fellow ordie customers 1550 TONS of Ordnance for our fellow pilots. Really Dropping Warheads on Foreheads here in the good ole desert. On top of all the missions, sweat, and long workdays, a couple of our Chapter 21 ordies participated in the SECWAR visit here in Fallon on Saturday, October 18th, 2025. AO1 Grady, Logan, AO2 Hendrix, Adasha, and AO2 Schilling, Jacob were hand selected to be part of the “Side Boys” for the US Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth.

At NMC Fallon they had the opportunity to roll out the training of the AIM-174 Gunslinger with an impressive team of ordies!

Also, Mr. Mike Viado on his retirement from NMC Fallon. Sir, thank you for all you did!

Our Chapter would like to congratulate AOCS (AW/SW) Hagley Trenton on his retirement, completing over 21.5 years!! We apologize for turning your beard all gray! Enjoy your retirement, do not forget to claim your AARP membership and still participate in our aao chapters wherever your retirement sends you!! Fair winds and following seas!

Shout out we would like to also add, congratulations to NMC Fallon’s Senior Sailor of the Year 2025 AO1 (AW/SW) Paxton, Steven and the Sailor of the Year 2025 AO2 Hendrix, Adasha!!

We are currently collecting donations towards the John Finn Statue for the plaque, working on getting new merchandise designs, and looking forward to our upcoming elections! We appreciate every ordie that comes out on detachment here in Ordnancetown USA and supporting our Chapter! Happy New Year! Let us make this 100th anniversary impressive at the Convention this year y’all!!

Respectfully,

AO1 (AW/SW) Thompson, Alyssa

Chapter 21 President



Start NOW making your plans for the
NATIONAL AAO Convention 2026!
Celebrating 250 years of our great Nation,
The 100th Anniversary of the AO Rate,
the 50th Anniversary of the Association,
and the 35th Anniversary of the Auxiliary!
To be held at the Silver Legacy Resort Reno, NV
30 July thru 02 Aug 2026
Get all the details at
redshirtnation.com





On March 2, 1926, the Aviation Ordnanceman rating was formally established at all four petty officer grades — Chief, First Class, Second Class, and Third Class — within the Aviation Branch of the United States Navy. The foundation of this great rating was built by highly qualified Sailors from the Gunner's Mate and Torpedoman communities who were assigned to aviation and answered the call to forge something new.

In January 1927, the Aviation Ordnanceman specialty mark — the winged flaming spherical shell — was incorporated into Uniform Regulations, forever symbolizing the power, precision, and professionalism of those entrusted with naval aviation ordnance.

Now, one hundred years later, we stand on the shoulders of those pioneers.

For a century, Aviation Ordnancemen have carried the weight of mission success from the flight deck to the hangar bay, from the open sea to the harshest deserts of the world. From propeller-driven aircraft to supersonic strike fighters, from conventional munitions to advanced precision-guided weaponry, we have evolved — but our commitment has never wavered.

Nothing has stood in our way.
No obstacle has diminished our resolve.
No challenge has exceeded our capability.

Many aspire to do what we do — but only a select few are chosen to bear the responsibility. Aviation Ordnancemen are trusted with the most powerful tools in the arsenal of freedom. We are expected to be precise, disciplined, relentless — and we deliver.

From those who begin their journey as an E-1 and rise through the enlisted ranks, to those who commission and lead as officers, even taking to the skies as Naval Aviators, the spirit of the Ordie endures. Whether on the deckplates, in leadership, or in the cockpit, we continue to demonstrate the unmatched strength and versatility of our great rate.

For 100 years, we have proven ourselves indispensable to naval aviation and to the defense of our nation.

And without question, in the century ahead, Aviation Ordnancemen will continue to set the standard — remaining the best of the best.

Respectfully,
Amber L. Roth AOC(Ret)
Red Shirt Editor and Web Site Custodian



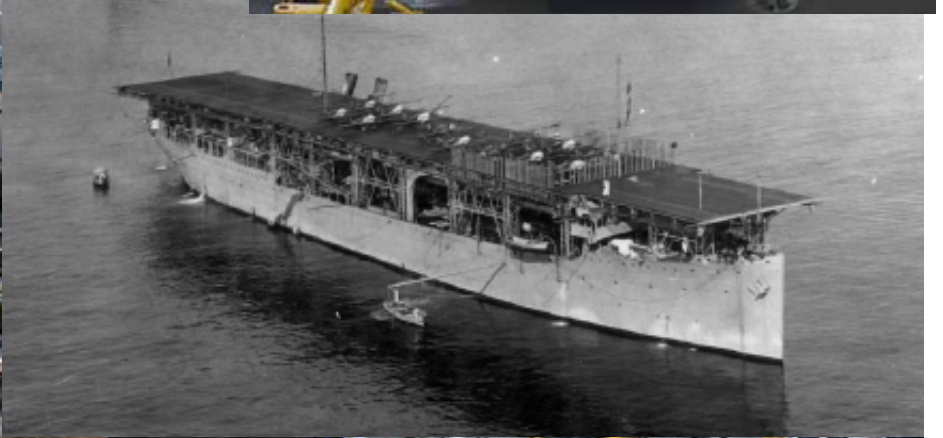
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