CNO says Midway vets ‘set the standard’

By JOC Walter T. Ham IV, CNO Public Affairs

By winning the Battle of Midway and turning the tide of the war in the Pacific, Midway veterans set the standard that Sailors and Marines are upholding today in the war on terrorism, according to Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark.

“In the aftermath of December the 7th, 1941, it looked gloomy,” the CNO told Midway veterans at San Francisco’s Marine’s Memorial Club. “We’re used to winning. We weren’t winning. We weren’t winning until the Battle of Midway.”

The CNO said he has a deeper understanding of how the attack on Pearl Harbor felt because of 9/11.

“It’s a day I’m never going to forget,” Clark said. “They hit my command center. I lost 42 people on my staff. What some people don’t know is that we lost 10 people in the Navy family also that day who were on airplanes up in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington. After USS Cole and 9/11, I’ve started to take this personal.”

Clark told the Midway veterans that they would be proud of their successors in today’s Navy-Marine Corps team.

“The greatest thing that I get to do is watch our young people. They’re truly awesome. They’re just trying to follow in your footsteps,” the CNO said. “In 1941 in the month of June, it was your turn. It was your turn to carry the torch. It was your turn to set the standards. It was your turn to stand on the bridge. It was your turn to stand tall and you did it in an amazing way. I want you to know how much we appreciate what you did for the United States of America.”

“It was your turn then. It’s our turn now. And we’re going to get it done.”

USS Yorktown (CV-5), shortly after it was hit by three Japanese bombs on June 4, 1942 at the Battle of Midway. Photo by PH2 William G. Roy
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Contents

3  CNP Message
4  Straight from the Source
5-8  Retired Activities Branch
9  Armed Forces Retirement Home
10-12  Veterans Affairs News
13  Centenarian Sailors
14-15  VETeran NETwork
16-17  Upcoming Retiree Seminars
18-26  Upcoming Reunions
27  Phone Numbers

Chloe Sanders, age 3, finds a front-row seat to watch her mother, Yeoman 1st Class Cynthia Sanders, join the distinguished ranks of Navy Retiree. (photo by JO2 Jeffrey Nichols)
A message from the Chief of Naval Personnel

Your Navy’s participation in the global war on terrorism continues to be nothing short of awe-inspiring. In the first ten months, our Navy has been at the leading edge of the fight. Here are just a few quick facts:

- 78 U.S. Navy ships have deployed to CENTCOM.
- More than half of the active carrier force has engaged in combat operations (Enterprise, Carl Vinson, Kitty Hawk, Theodore Roosevelt, John C. Stennis, John F. Kennedy, and George Washington).
- Five of 12 ARGs have joined the fight (Peleliu, Bataan, Bonhomme Richard, Wasp, and Belleau Wood).
- 60,000 Sailors and Marines have deployed to CENTCOM.
- Over 13,000 Navy and Marine reservists have been mobilized.
- Naval aviation has flown 12,000 combat sorties.
- We dropped over 5,000 precision weapons, including firing 82 Tomahawks.

That’s delivering credible combat power to the four corners of the earth. As you know, we can also do this with complete freedom of action and without a permission slip from other nations.

It’s also a busy time in Washington, D.C., as Congress works on delivering a budget which supports our men and women. Several of the issues we are working were addressed during the Secretary of the Navy’s Retiree Council which met in Washington in April. The council took note of the dramatic accomplishments that have taken place in the past two years in the health care arena, specifically the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy (TSRx) and TRICARE for Life programs. The Council expressed in its letter to Secretary England the appreciation of Navy and Marine Corps retirees and their families for the Department of the Navy’s efforts in making these programs become a reality.

The Council felt that two major issues merited top attention on behalf of the retired community: changes to the Survivor Benefit Plan and the concurrent receipt of retired pay and disability compensation for military retirees. On these issues, the Council expressed the following opinions:

“"We must take care of our spouses and surviving spouses who stood by our sides throughout our careers and, in many cases, sacrificed the opportunity to pursue careers of their own. Reducing their survivor’s annuity at age 62 is an embarrassment.”

“The time has come to provide our disabled retirees just due by providing full entitlement to both retired pay and disability compensation. It is patently unjust to combine these entitlements for those who served arduous duty in the military while providing both to other Federal retirees.”

In an effort to help you get more of the information you need, we have established a Customer Service Center (CSC) at the Navy Personnel Command in Millington, TN. The CSC became operational in April ’02 for active duty Sailors and has opened to rave reviews. The center’s capacity has since been expanded to handle responses from our entire Navy family to include reservists, retirees, and family members. If you have a question, call 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (1-866-827-5672) between 0700-1900 CST Monday through Friday, or you can visit the web site at www.staynavy.navy.mil.

This is my last letter to you as your Chief of Naval Personnel. Serving you and our active duty Sailors has been the honor and privilege of a lifetime. We have made real progress in both improving the quality of service for our young men and women and demonstrating that their service is highly valued by our fellow citizens. As a result, our Navy’s combat capability is exceptional and our reenlistment rates are at all-time highs. In September I will become president and CEO of The Retired Officers Association (TROA). This position with TROA will allow me to continue serving you and all of our men and women and their families. It’s hard to think of a better position outside of wearing the uniform.

Thank you for your own personal example of dedicated service to our nation and your continued support to all our men and women currently serving.

All the best!

NORB RYAN JR.
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
Dear Fellow Retirees,

The March-June 2002 Shift Colors was one of the largest newsletters published in my nine years of working with the Retired Activities Branch. Of note is the section in my last article mentioning that a list of stateside Casualty Assistance Coordinators for those interested in volunteering for “Military Funeral Honors Details” would be included in that edition. I found out at the last minute that the details on administering the program had not been worked out. As soon as a Navy policy is promulgated we will publish additional information in the Shift Colors.

In the last edition I also provided you information on “Special Compensation” and “Concurrent Receipt”. However, due to printing deadlines and the lack of finalization of legislative initiatives, what is the latest when we go to print may have changed by the time you receive your copy of Shift Colors. So, I encourage you to consider joining a military fraternal organization, i.e. the Fleet Reserve (FRA), The Retired Officers Association (TROA) or The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA), to name a few, or visit their web sites to stay updated on your entitlements and benefits.

During the months of April and May, I had the privilege of participating in the Secretary of the Navy’s Retiree Council (SECNAV RC), the Army’s Chief of Staff Retiree Council and the Air Force Retiree Council. The councils are composed of retired representatives of their service. The members articulate their retiree communities’ concerns and forward recommendations to their service’s Secretary or Chief of Staff. The Services again are working together to let leadership know how the retiree community feels about (primarily): Full Concurrent Receipt, Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) offset provision, Concurrent Receipt of SBP, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and TRICARE for Life (TFL). We will publish the Secretary of the Navy’s Report with his response in one of our future newsletters.

“I didn’t know that,” is a phrase I hear from members of the retiree community far too often. Fellow retirees and survivors, we have to be an informed community to ensure nothing we are entitled to slips by. Go to Retiree Appreciation Days or call your Retired Activities Office (RAO) and ask, “what’s new.” You contributed your youth and energy to the military for many years. You owe it to yourself and your beneficiaries to be knowledgeable of events that affect you.

Do you know where your DD214 (discharge or retirement order) is located? Your survivors will have a tough time arranging military funeral honors without this important document.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

In Your Service,

Dennis Mills

Head, Navy Retiree Operations Section

Other important issues addressed at the Retiree Council meeting:

Vice Adm. Ryan’s letter (page 3) details key issues addressed by the 2002 Secretary of the Navy Retiree Council. Additional issues discussed include:

- The Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act (USFSPA) – Support legislative changes to USFSPA effecting changes to the division of retired pay.
- Access to Health Care – Reimburse Medical Treatment Facilities (MTFs) adequately for care provided to Medicare-eligible beneficiaries.
- TRICARE Communication and Marketing – Establish an aggressive, comprehensive, unrelenting non-traditional marketing and communication plan.
- Subsidy for TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) – Urge DoD to appropriately subsidize TRDP and to extend Plan to retirees overseas.
- Monetary Penalty for Military Retiree Late Enrollment in Medicare Part B to Qualify for TRICARE for Life (TFL) – Support a policy change to grant a waiver of Medicare Part B enrollment for military retirees eligible for TRICARE benefits if they were eligible but enrolled in Medicare Part B prior to June 5, 2001.
- Incorporate Department of the Navy retirees as part of the “Quality of Service” continuum – Establish a program that utilizes the talent pool represented by Naval Service retirees.
- Authorize and implement payroll deduction and automated payment of TRICARE Prime premiums.
2002 SECNAV Retiree Council

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FLTCIP is an important new benefit for more than 20 million members of the Federal family, including Federal and Postal employees and annuitants, members and retired members of the uniformed services and qualified relatives. We contracted with John Hancock and MetLife, who formed a joint venture called Long Term Care Partners, to provide this insurance.

Q. What is long term care?
A. Long term care is the kind of care that you would need to help you perform daily activities if you had an ongoing illness or disability. It also includes the kind of care you would need if you had a severe cognitive problem like Alzheimer’s disease. It is help with eating, bathing, dressing, transferring from a bed to a chair, toileting, continence, etc. This type of care isn’t received in a hospital and isn’t intended to cure you. It is not acute care. It is chronic care that you might need for the rest of your life. It can be received in your own home, at a nursing home or other long term care facility.

Q. What is long term care insurance?
A. It is insurance that helps you pay for long term care services, such as home care or care in a nursing home or assisted living facility.

Q. I’m healthy. I won’t need long term care. Or, will I?
A. The odds are that you will need long term care at some point in your life, and you may need it sooner than you think. About 40 percent of people needing long term care are adults ages 18-64. They may have had an accident or a stroke, developed multiple sclerosis, etc. While we hope you never need it, everyone should have a plan for meeting their long term care needs. Many will do so through long term care insurance.

Q. Is long term care expensive?
A. Yes, it can be very expensive. It can easily exhaust your savings which is one reason you might decide to buy long term care insurance.

Q. But doesn’t my health plan already cover long term care?
A. No, in most cases it does not. Health plans may cover some of the skilled medical services you may need when you can’t care for yourself after an illness or injury, but usually for a limited period and only as long as you are showing improvement. Health plans typically do not cover ongoing chronic care such as an extended stay in an assisted living facility or a continuing need for a home health aide to help you in and out of bed. No health plan that we know of will cover all of your long term care needs.

Q. But won’t Medicare cover long term care?
A. No, in most cases it will not. Medicare is a Federal health insurance program for people who are age 65 or older, some people with disabilities under age 65, people with End-Stage Renal Disease (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a transplant), and people with Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis). Medicare will cover the first 100 days of care in a nursing home if: (1) you are receiving skilled care, and (2) you have a qualifying hospital stay of at least three days and enter the nursing home within 30 days of that hospital discharge. There are also some deductibles and co-pays (meaning you have to pay part of the cost). Medicare also covers limited home visits for skilled care.

It’s very important to realize a few things about long term care versus Medicare’s coverage:
1. most long term care is not skilled care,
2. most long term care does not take place in a nursing home,
3. most nursing home stays do not immediately follow a hospital stay,
4. most people who require care in their home usually need more or different types of care than Medicare covers,
5. most people won’t start Medicare coverage until age 65.

So don’t count on Medicare to cover your long term care needs.

Q. I recently read that Medicare is now covering Alzheimer’s Disease. Is this true?
A. The information that you are seeing is related to the decision by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to no longer exclude persons with Alzheimer’s disease from accessing Medicare-covered services due to their diagnosis alone. Medicare still only covers skilled care under certain conditions for a limited period of time. All the restrictions on receiving nursing home care or home care, including a prior

continued on next page
hospital stay and need for skilled care, as well as required deductibles and copayments, still apply. Alzheimer’s disease is a chronic illness. Persons with this illness typically require non-skilled, custodial care for long periods of time. This type of care is still not covered under Medicare, but the change in Medicare’s policy has left many with the impression that it might be.

Q. But won’t Medicaid cover long term care?  
A. Medicaid is a state-based program supplemented by Federal funds that acts as a safety net to provide health services to the poor and impoverished. Medicaid covers long term care services and might cover you if you meet your state’s poverty criteria and receive care that meets your state’s guidelines. Usually this means expending all but $2,000 of your assets and savings (except for perhaps your house and your car). It also means receiving care from a limited number of state-approved caregivers (mostly institutions like nursing homes) that are willing to accept Medicaid’s payments. People that you wouldn’t consider poor sometimes qualify for Medicaid by “playing the game” and “beating the system,” usually with legal help. States react with more rules. If you don’t have much in the way of assets and income, Medicaid is probably your best bet for long term care. If you can afford long term care insurance, want to control the type and location of care that you receive, and aren’t interested in (or don’t want to count on) beating the system, the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program deserves your attention.

For more information on the FLTCIP call 800-582-3337 or visit www.ltcfeds.com.

What should my spouse know in the event of my death?  

This question is often asked of Shift Colors and the Retired Activities Branch. While it may be impossible to truly prepare for the overwhelming emotions and dilemmas that arise with the loss of a loved one, it does help when most of the issues have already been settled.

This checklist provides information that may prove helpful as you prepare one another for the task of handling the affairs of a deceased loved one.

__ Create a military file that includes your retirement orders, separation papers, medical records, etc. Make sure your spouse knows the location and telephone number of the nearest military installation.
__ Create a military retired pay file that includes the pertinent information for DFAS and NPC. To contact:
    Defense Finance and Accounting Service
    Directorate of Retired Pay (Code PRR)
    Post Office Box 99191
    Cleveland, OH 44199-1126
    800-321-1080, 216-522-5955 or 800-269-5170

__ Create a personal document file that has copies of marriage certificates, divorce decrees, adoptions and naturalization papers.
__ Create an annuities file. This should contain information regarding the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) or the Retired Serviceman’s Family Protection Plan (RSFPP), Civil Service, etc. Additional information regarding SBP annuities can be obtained from the DFAS Denver office at 800-435-3396.
__ Create a property tax file. Include copies of all charge accounts and credit cards. Include account numbers and mailing addresses.
__ Maintain a list of all associations and organizations of which you are a member. Some of them could be helpful to your spouse.
__ Maintain a list of all friends and business associates

continued on next page
who may be helpful. Include name, address and phone number.

__ Spend time with your spouse discussing your plans in respect to the type of funeral, burial, cremation or service you would prefer. If they know your desires, it may resolve many of the questions they might have to face at a later date.

__ Visit a local funeral home and pre-arrange your services. Many states will allow you to pre-pay for services.

__ Investigate the decisions that you and your family have agreed upon. Many states have specific laws and guidelines regulating cremation and burials at sea. Some states require a letter of authority signed by the deceased in order to authorize a cremation. Know the laws in your specific area and how they may affect your decisions. Information regarding Burials at Sea can be obtained by phoning the Naval Office of Medical/Dental Affairs-Mortuary Affairs Division at 800-876-1131.

__ Once your decisions have been made and you’re comfortable with them, have a will drawn up outlining all your wishes.

__ Ensure that your will and all other official documents are maintained in a secure location known by your loved ones.

__ When all the decision-making and documenting is completed, continue to enjoy life with peace of mind.

Rest assured that you have done everything possible to help prepare your loved ones for a day when you can no longer help. If you have other suggestions that might prove helpful and would like to share them with your fellow retirees, send them to the Retired Activities Branch at our address on the previous page for inclusion in a future issue.

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This information is for family members of surviving spouses of military retirees. It is intended as a guide and is not all-inclusive.

- Notify the Defense Finance and Accounting Service – Denver if the surviving spouse was receiving an annuity from the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP), the Retired Serviceman’s Family Protection Plan (RSFPP) or “Forgotten Widows Annuity.” Call 800-435-3396

- If the survivor was a Civil Service retiree or receiving an annuity from the Federal government, notify the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) at 724-794-8690, Option 3 or 888-767-6738.

- If the survivor was receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) or other compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), contact the VA at 800-827-1000.

- Notify private sector or retirement custodian if the deceased received funds from an employer sponsored plan.

- Notify financial institutions where the deceased saved, invested or maintained funds.

- Notify insurance companies.

- Contact your nearest Retired Activities Office (RAO) or Retired Services Office (RSO) for assistance. The RAO phone numbers are routinely published in Shift Colors. Call your nearest military installation for the RSO locations.

- If the deceased was receiving Social Security benefits, notify the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213.

- If the deceased participated in the federal government’s Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) contact the Federal Retirement Thrift Board at 504-255-6000.

- If the deceased was a member of a military fraternal group, such as, the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), The Retired Officers Association (TROA), The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA), The American Legion or DAV, please notify that organization.

Realizing that the above list is incomplete, we would appreciate any input from retirees or survivors on information that would be pertinent for the family members of a deceased service member.
Looking out the windows of the Naval Home in Gulfport, the view is one of Live Oaks and the Gulf. It is a peaceful sight, one of the very best on the coast.

The grounds around the home are active, with people coming and going. Occasionally an ambulance drives in and then out, slowly gliding around the curves as it rolls towards the main gate. One might wonder if there is a friend inside.

Others may wonder if they will make it back to the home. The thought that crosses my mind is “there goes a part of history.” I wonder if we ever got the story of the passenger, his oral history.

Thousands of World War II veterans will not be heard from again after this year. Their stories, if not captured, will lose the richness of this heritage.

Over half of the residents of the Naval Home are veterans of our largest war. How many veterans have sat down and documented their story? How many have passed on the memories used to maintain our factual history?

The Naval Home, now named the Armed Forces Retirement Home-Gulfport, is taking the steps to maintain that history. In conjunction with the Center for Oral History, at the University of Southern Mississippi, the oral history program at the Naval Home is alive and running.

“Already a handful of interviews are providing useful facts and anecdotes,” said Pic Firmin, interviewer for USM.

“We have had some excellent interviews, with a good turnout from the residents,” he said.

Retirement Home fees reduced

Resident fees have been reduced at the Armed Forces Retirement Home-Gulfport, cutting in half the fees for independent and assisted living care for veterans of all military services. The National Defense Authorization Act for 2002 has implemented this reduction until Dec. 31, 2006, or until new or renovated quarters are available for residents.

The percentages and limitations on the maximum monthly amount that are applicable to fees charged to residents are as follows: independent living, 35 percent, but not to exceed $800 per month; assisted living, 40 percent, but not to exceed $1,300 per month; and long-term care, 65 percent, but not to exceed $2,500 per month.

The home has vacancies. For information, please call 800-332-3527.
Law increases veterans’ burial benefits

Under a new law, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will increase reimbursement for funeral expenses and cemetery plots for service-disabled veterans and provide government markers for veterans’ graves even if families already have installed private markers.

“The modest increases in payments to veterans’ families, and the additional monuments to our heroes’ service, are steps toward better acknowledging this nation’s appreciation of its veterans,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi.

The Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001 increases the burial and funeral expense allowance for veterans who die as a result of a service-connected disability from $1,500 to $2,000 and the cemetery plot allowance, for certain other disabled veterans, from $150 to $300.

The law also directs VA to honor requests for government markers for veterans buried in private cemeteries even if their graves have headstones or markers furnished at private expense. Previous law prevented VA from providing markers in that situation. These increases are among many provisions of the VA’s Charter renewed for Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi has renewed the charter for a special 14-member panel that advises him on issues affecting women veterans.

“VA is being called upon to provide more services for women veterans,” Principi said. “We must make a special effort to ensure we’re meeting their needs for health care, rehabilitation, outreach and other VA programs.”

The Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, established in 1984, reports annually to the VA secretary with assessments of the needs of women veterans.

It also reviews the adequacy of VA programs to the needs of women veterans and makes recommendations for administrative and legislative changes.

The director of the Center for Women Veterans, Dr. Irene Trowell-Harris, serves as the executive director for the committee. VA’s Center for Women Veterans, created in 1994, ensures that women veterans receive benefits and services on a par with male veterans; that they encounter no discrimination in their attempts to access these services; and that they are treated with respect, dignity and understanding.

“We’ve created change through collaboration,” said Dr. Trowell-Harris.

“We’ve provided staff education and training, strengthened interagency relationships, developed partnerships with veterans service organizations, enhanced the flow of information, responded to over 200 inquiries since October, fostered research on women’s health and incorporated women veterans’ issues as part of the national women’s agenda.”

The 14-member committee is among 21 special VA advisory panels. By law, the charters of those panels expire every two years unless renewed by the VA secretary for another two-year term. Principi renewed the charter for the women’s panel on Dec. 31.
Quality of veterans’ health care rates high marks

The health care veterans receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is comparable to -- and often better than -- care provided by private sector counterparts, according to recent reports.

VA data from 18 indicators were compared with similar data from managed health care organizations, government sources and population-based surveys.

For 16 of the 18 indicators, VA outcomes exceeded the “best-reported” performance data from health care organizations measured by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), Medicare Managed Care Plans (MMCP), Centers for Disease Control (CDC) surveys, and Health and Human Services National Center Health Statistics (NCHS).

“VA health care has come a long way in its more than 50 years of existence,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. “This is a new VA, substantially different, profoundly better and a recognized leader in providing quality health care. This data, in part, explains why so many more veterans are coming to us for their care.”

The indicators cover a wide range of care, from diabetes and hypertension to cancer screening and immunizations. With a focus on preventive care, for example, VA provided screening for cervical cancer 89 percent of the time, compared with NCQA’s 78 percent. For diabetic patients, VA examined patients’ kidney function 72 percent of the time, compared to NCQA’s 46 percent.

“To a large degree, VA health care is improving because of an emphasis on the use of clinical practice guidelines and system-wide performance measures throughout VA’s 1,300 sites of care,” said Dr. Robert H. Roswell, under secretary for health. “VA quality used to be questionable. Today, VA is a health care industry that is highly competitive and in many areas leads the nation.”

The performance measure system is an evidence-based means to assure veterans receive the best care possible. Even in areas where comparable private sector data is not available, VA has made significant progress.

For example, screening for problem alcohol use last year was at 74 percent, up from 66 percent the previous year; educating patients about prostate cancer rose from 71 percent to 83 percent, and screening patients for depression rose from 70 percent to 81 percent.

Clinical statistics only tell a portion of the story. For the second year in a row, independent surveys confirm that patient satisfaction scores for VA outpatient care top those received by private sector health care providers.

“VA does not measure to see where we’ve been,” said Principi. “Instead, we measure to support where we want to go. We will not rest on our laurels. We will continue to improve, and that’s a pledge I make to all veterans.”

VA compensates more veterans exposed to radiation

Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) Anthony J. Principi recently announced the addition of five new cancers to the list of diseases presumed to be connected to the exposure of veterans to radiation during their military service. Veterans diagnosed with cancer of the bone, brain, colon, lung or ovary will have an easier time establishing entitlement to compensation for their illnesses effective March 26, 2002.

“These veterans accepted the risks of duty and have borne the burden of their illnesses in service to our nation. They should not have to bear an additional and unequal burden to prove they deserve the benefits they’ve so rightfully earned. The new rules will not cure their cancers, but they will ease the burden of proof required to receive appropriate compensation for their disabilities,” Principi said.

The new rules apply to veterans who participated in “radiation-risk activities” while on active duty, during active duty for training or inactive duty training as a reservist.

The definition of radiation-risk activities has also been expanded to include service at Amchitka Island, Alaska, prior to Jan. 1, 1974, if a veteran was exposed while performing duties related to certain underground nuclear tests. The new definition also includes service at gaseous diffusion plants located in Paducah, Ky., Portsmouth, Ohio and an area known as K25 at Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Under current statutes, the following diseases are presumed to be service connected if the veteran participated in a radiation-risk activity: leukemia (other than chronic lymphocytic leukemia), cancer of the thyroid, breast, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, pancreas, gall bladder, bile ducts, salivary gland, or urinary tract, multiple myeloma, lymphomas (except Hodgkin’s disease), primary cancer of the liver (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated) or bronchiolo-alveolar carcinoma.

Veterans or their survivors can file claims for compensation by contacting a VA regional office at 800-827-1000 or visiting www.va.gov.
Online system speeds up veteran home loan processing

A new federal Internet-based system for mortgage bankers and other lenders will speed up the processing of home loans for veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). After the veteran’s information is entered by the financial institution providing the loan, the lender will receive a certificate authenticating the veteran’s eligibility in seconds.

Previously, when a certificate of eligibility was needed, a form was submitted to VA and the certificate was mailed, a process that can take a week or more.

“This leap forward in VA automation is great news for the veteran anxious to close a loan and move into a new home,” said VA Under Secretary for Benefits Daniel L. Cooper. “When interest rates begin to change, getting loan procedures resolved quickly can be important to our veterans.”

The new system, called Automated Certificate of Eligibility (ACE), should be especially beneficial for active-duty members and veterans who are using their home loan benefit for the first time.

Last year VA guaranteed more than 250,000 loans valued at $31.2 billion. Approximately 80 percent of these loans require a certificate of eligibility. VA anticipates the ACE system will be able to generate a certificate for 30 to 50 percent of these loans. However, some loans will still require manual processing by VA, including veterans whose eligibility is based on National Guard or Reserve service, those with irregular discharges and those in several other situations.

Where the new electronic system is used, the eligibility certificate will be printed from the lender’s computer and it will be customized, bearing the date and lender’s name as well as a unique authorization number. For the veteran, that represents a change from the traditional certificate process in which the veteran often kept a copy of the certificate of eligibility to take to a prospective lender.

The ACE system will not reject any veterans for home loans and lenders will not be involved in deciding any eligibility issues. A veteran whose eligibility involves special issues requiring the traditional staff review may still request a certificate of eligibility in advance of approaching a bank or mortgage company with a loan application by sending in VA Form 26-1880, Request for Determination of Eligibility for VA Home Loan Benefits.

All lenders participating in the VA loan guaranty program have access to the system. Veterans or servicemembers interested in learning more about their VA home loan benefits or who wish to obtain forms may visit www.homeloans.va.gov on the Internet.

Benefits guide free on web

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem, USA
American Forces Press Service

The Department of Veterans Affairs has made its comprehensive benefits guide available for free on the Internet.

Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents www.va.gov/pubaff/fedben/Fedben.pdf is a 100-page handbook describing benefits provided by the VA and an overview of programs and services for veterans provided by other federal agencies.

VA officials estimate most of America’s 25 million veterans qualify for at least some VA benefits, but many are unaware of their entitlements. This handbook includes a listing of toll-free numbers, World Wide Web information resources, and VA facilities.

Most veterans are eligible for healthcare and burial benefits. Many are also eligible for home loan guarantees, educational assistance, vocational rehabilitation, life insurance, and compensation for service-connected disabilities.

This guide explains how to access many of these benefits online. For instance, it provides a Web address and instructions for enrolling via the Internet into the VA healthcare system. The book describes in detail the priority for care and services available. Separate sections describe specialized services available to Gulf War veterans and those exposed to Agent Orange or radiation.

The Montgomery GI Bill and other education benefits are explained in depth. Burial benefits and employment service are also covered, as are rate charts for the various forms of compensation VA provides.

The book can be purchased through the Government Printing Office for $5 for U.S.-based customers and $6.25 for those overseas by calling toll-free 866-512-1800. By providing it online at, the VA hopes to make the information available to more veterans.
Submitted by Frank Ereñeta

My father, Julio “Jay” Ereñeta, Chief Warrant Officer (Naval Flight Officer, Radio Electronics, Aviation), U.S. Navy (Ret.) was born on Jan. 2, 1902, and is now 100 years old. He is agile, healthy, and ambulatory. His diction is clear; his recollection of names, dates, and events is still remarkably accurate.

A variety of old flight logs, correspondence, documents, insignia, memorabilia, weaponry, photographs, and videotapes are available and uncatalogued.

Thank you for recognizing him as a Navy Centenarian. His longevity (and my communications with national associations) suggest that he has to be among the oldest known living veterans of the naval minewarfare community (1919); the naval radio communications community (1919); the battleship community (1921); and the naval aviation community (1922).

Duty Station Highlights:

World War I North Sea minefields in USS EIDER (Mine-sweeper no. 17), March 1919; witnessed world’s first trans-Atlantic flight by U.S. Navy Flying Boat NC-4 at Lisbon, Portugal, May 1919; witnessed World War I scuttling of German High Seas Fleet, Scapa Flow, Orkney Islands, June 1919; in 1919-1920 served in old wooden warship, USS HARTFORD (Admiral Farragut’s flagship at Civil War Battle of Mobile Bay, 1864); attended Navy Radio School (Great Lakes) with classmate and life long friend, radio/TV personality, Arthur “Red” Godfrey, 1920-1921; served on coal burning battleship, USS FLORIDA (BB-30) in 1921-1923; first aircrewman flight in F5L Seaplane of USS WRIGHT (AZ-1) at Newport R.I. in 1922; on China Station/ Yangtze Patrol in USS FINCH (AM-9), 1924-1928; Aviation communications, Cavite/Los Banos, Philippine Islands, 1928-1930; Comm. Ctr, 1st Nav Dist, Boston MA, 1930-1932.

Aviation Squadrons aircrewman (Radio Electronics) in:


Career Path: Mess Attendant (Radioman Striker); Electrician’s Mate Third Class (Radio); Radioman Second Class; Radioman First Class, Radioman First Class (Aviation aircrewman); ACRM (Chief Petty Officer, Aviation Radio Electronics); Warrant Officer (Naval Flight Officer, Radio Electronics, Aviation); Chief Warrant Officer (Naval Flight Officer, Radio Electronics, Aviation).

Thank you Frank Ereñeta, for a detailed look at a great shipmate! If you know a Sailor, retired or not, who has reached 100 years old, send us photos, a write-up or any information you may have to help us celebrate their service and their life. -- Editor, Shift Colors
Looking for a second career?

The Internet can be one of your most valuable tools when searching for a job or a second career after retiring. In the past, you may have relied on the classified section of newspapers or a job recruiter. Now, the search is as simple as visiting different web sites to input keywords for the job you want and instantly finding results.

Web sites for job searches differ from newspaper classifieds, because in addition to listing available jobs, they allow you to post your resume for potential employers to review. Employers search these sites by inputting keywords for the type of workers they want to hire.

While some job search companies only use the Internet to help people find jobs, others allow customers to send resumes by fax or other means to be listed in their database.

When searching for jobs on-line, you should provide as much information as you can give about your qualifications, without narrowing your options. Employee questionnaires may ask how far you are willing to travel; salary requirements, and where you want to work.

If you don’t own a computer or are not particularly proficient at using the Internet, visit your local library and ask for assistance. There are many other places that you can go to use a computer to search for employment. Your local employment agency, military transition office, Internet café (there will be a fee to use computers there), or even a friend’s house.

*Shift Colors* has conducted some research to find some web sites and employment services that help veterans find employment. We cannot over emphasize the fact that we do not endorse any particular site or the services they offer. We just want to list some sites that may be helpful to shipmates, and we will be glad to include additional sites that you recommend in a future issue.

All descriptions of these web sites come from each web site -- in their words and with their permission.

*Denotes services that you do not need internet access to use.

*www.corpscareers.tv/press/index.htm* - Don Peña, a veteran of the U.S. Navy, began CorpsCareers in 2001 after his own transition struggle from the military to the civilian world. “I hit a dead end in the military,” he says. “And I didn’t know how to translate my years in the service into something I could sell on a resume.” CorpsCareers, he hopes, will ensure an easier transition for his fellow veterans.

Contact Corps Careers at 202-362-9618

*www.taonline.com* - One of the very first e-recruiting sites for the 500,000 plus job seekers from the military community was founded by former military personnel. It has been recognized by industry experts as a leader in its space, and no other site in its category offers the number of resumes, job postings, unique visitors and resources for transitioning service members and other job seekers from the military community. Through its alliances with the Reserve Officers Association, the Non Commissioned Officers Association, and other military organizations, and because it publishes the best selling resume preparation software for job seekers from the military, TAOnline has established its brand as a top e-recruiting site for the military sector.

Contact TA online at Phone: 888-213-8587

*www.vetjobs.com* - VetJobs.com is owned and operated by veterans for veterans. Ted Daywalt (President) and Keith Baker (COO) are both retired senior Naval Officers who have had years of experience in the recruiting industry. They have put together a seasoned management team of professionals to assist companies, recruiting firms and hiring authorities to successfully reach the military veteran market. VetJobs.com is not just for senior military officers. It is for all personnel who at one time or another served in one of the military branches of the United States.

Contact Vetjobs at 877-838-5627

*www.ncoausa.org/vets_emplymnt_assistance.htm* - The Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA), since
1973, has sponsored one of the most comprehensive and renowned Veterans Employment Assistance (VEA) programs available today.

The NCOA/VEA program is designed to help veterans find jobs after release from active service. Although the program is primarily aimed at separating or retiring military personnel, all veterans and their spouses/dependents are welcome to participate. What makes NCOA’s program particularly unique is that there are no membership requirements to participate. Additionally, the program is not just for NCO’s or Petty Officers. All ranks and grades are welcome and encouraged to participate and there is never a fee of any kind charged for the service. If an individual has served the country, honorably and faithfully and that individual now needs a job, then NCOA wants to help.

Contact Flo Rodriguez at 210-653-6161 ext. 221

* www.recruitmilitary.com - RecruitMilitary’s unique web hiring system was designed exclusively by military veterans, so you can expect features and services that are relevant to your career change. We have a suite of tools to help make your job search quick and easy. Our proprietary 6-Step Resume Builder examines all aspects of your career, including goals and job preferences, and compiles them into a high quality resume.

Contact RecruitMilitary at 513-621-5349
### Upcoming Retiree Seminars

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<tr>
<th>Arizona</th>
<th>Florida</th>
<th>Minnesota</th>
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<tr>
<td>Phoenix</td>
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<tr>
<td>(602) 353-3033</td>
<td>POC: Dennis Kerr, 1st Sgt.</td>
<td>(8 a.m. - 1 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:nmccrcphx@cnrf.navy.mil">nmccrcphx@cnrf.navy.mil</a></td>
<td>(USA Ret.)</td>
<td>Rosemont National Guard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(850) 452-5990/1 Ext. 126</td>
<td>Training Center Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:nasp-retired-activities@cnrf.navy.mil">nasp-retired-activities@cnrf.navy.mil</a></td>
<td>13865 South Robert Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(612) 713-1578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:philipson@worldnet.att.net">philipson@worldnet.att.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>Hawaii</td>
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<td>Sunnyvale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunnyvale</td>
<td>Pearl Harbor</td>
<td>Sept. 21, 2002</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2003</td>
<td>Nov. 2, 2002 (8 a.m. - Noon)</td>
<td>Call or email for reservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POC: Robert French</td>
<td>At the Banyans</td>
<td>prior to Sept. 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt. USN (Ret.)</td>
<td>915 North Road</td>
<td>POC: Charles Bird, Capt. (USN Ret.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(650) 603-8047</td>
<td>Pearl Harbor, HI 96860</td>
<td>or Marsh Werner, Lt. Cmdr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:crandrcfrench@earthlink.net">crandrcfrench@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>(808) 473-4222 Ext. 231</td>
<td>(USN Ret.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(314) 263-6443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:rao-stlouis@cnrf.nola.navy.mil">rao-stlouis@cnrf.nola.navy.mil</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>New Hampshire/Maine</td>
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<tr>
<td>New London/Groton</td>
<td>Great Lakes</td>
<td>Portsmouth</td>
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<tr>
<td>(9 a.m. - 2 p.m.)</td>
<td>POC: Ms. Catherine Gourley</td>
<td>Aug. 24, 2002 (8 a.m.-2 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At the Dealey Center Theater</td>
<td>(847) 688-3603 Ext. 118</td>
<td>Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, NH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Katusha, Lt. Cmdr.</td>
<td>retired-act.glakes@cnnet. navy.mil</td>
<td>POC: Ervin Rice Cmdr. (USN Ret.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USN (Ret.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(207) 921-2609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(806) 694-3284</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:fc-rao@nasb.navymil">fc-rao@nasb.navymil</a></td>
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<td>Florida</td>
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<td>Jacksonville</td>
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<td>Rochester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacksonville</td>
<td>New Orleans</td>
<td>Aug. 10, 2002</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 28, 2002 (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.)</td>
<td>Sept. 21, 2002</td>
<td>POC: Lawrence O’Heron, CTICS (USN Ret.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAS, Bldg 30 (VP-30 HGR)</td>
<td>POC: Bernard Cleary, PHC</td>
<td>(585) 247-2052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POC: Coll Robertson, Lt. Cmdr.</td>
<td>(USN Ret.)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rao-rochesterny@mail.com">rao-rochesterny@mail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USN Ret.)</td>
<td>(504) 678-2134</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rao-rochesterny.org">www.rao-rochesterny.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(904) 542-266 Ext. 126</td>
<td><a href="mailto:raojx@nasjax.navy.mil">raojx@nasjax.navy.mil</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:crobbiewin@aol.com">crobbiewin@aol.com</a></td>
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Pennsylvania

Willow Grove
Sept. 28, 2002
At the NAS-JRB Willow Grove
POC: Harold Loigman
Capt. (USN Ret.)
(800) 773-1569, (215) 443-6033
rao@cnrf.nola.navy.mil
www.nasjrbdwillowgrove.navy.mil

Virginia

Little Creek and Norfolk
Sept. 14, 2002
POC: Eugene Crabtree
HMCM (USN Ret.)
(800) 372-5463, (757) 462-7763,
or (757) 322-9113
fsrao@ffsclc.navy.mil
raonorfolk@ffscnorva.navy.mil

Millington

Retiree Seminar
Photos by
JO2 Jeffrey Nichols

Above: Various retiree and veteran services pass out information to people attending the seminar.

Right: Ms. Lisa Williams (rear), Transition Manager for Fleet and Family Support Center at NSA Millington, observes while an attendee completes a seminar survey form during a Retired Activities Seminar held April 27 in Millington, Tenn.
Upcoming Reunions

USS ARLINGTON (AGMR 2)
Las Vegas, NV; Oct. 17-20, 2002
Contact Kenneth Cox
415 Doris Street
Quincy, MI 49082
(517) 639-7376
ussarlingtonagmr2@yahoo.com

USS BAINBRIDGE (DD 246)
Atlantic City, NJ; Sept. 30-Oct. 3, 2002
Contact Alan Kennett
8 Lilli Street
Bayville, NJ
(732) 269-4396
afkcpa@cs.com

USS BEGOR (APD 127)
San Antonio, TX; Oct. 17-20, 2002
Contact Roger Turk
8325 East 25th Street
Tucson, AZ 85710
(520) 885-2079
73527.1356@compuserve.com

USS BERKELEY (DD 15)
Charleston, SC; Oct. 17-20, 2002
Contact Ray Bartlett
USS Berkeley Association
P.O. Box 267
Claremont, CA 91711-0267
(909) 981-7587
u.uusberkeley@verizon.net

USS BETELGEUSE (AK 28/11)
Savannah, GA; Oct. 2-6, 2002
Contact George Rippel
2615 Cynwyd Avenue
Broomall, PA 19008
(610) 356-4101
rajdd657@aol.com

USS BILLFISH (SS 286/SSN 676)
New London, CT; Oct. 18-20, 2002
Contact John Martin
P.O. Box 425
Frostburg, MD 21532
(301) 689-5070
granwilson@juno.com

USS BOYD (DD 544)
San Diego, CA; Oct. 10-12, 2002
Contact Charles St. John
P.O. Box 5728
Beaumont, TX 77726
(409) 466-2487
sailorman41@hotmail.com

USS BRISTOL (DD 857)
Pensacola, FL; Oct. 10-13, 2002
Contact John Watt
1020 W. Evan Hewes Hwy
Space 57
El Centro, CA 92243-9504
(760) 353-1408
wattisup@earthlink.net

USS BRYCE CANYON (AD 36)
Caribbean Cruise; Nov. 3-7, 2002
Contact Jack Bach
2220 Pier Drive
Ruskin, FL 33570
(813) 645-4004
dabachtee@webtv.net

USS CABOT (CVL 28)
Mobile, AL; Oct. 9-13, 2002
Contact Barrett Frink
P.O. Box 11
E. Woodstock, CT 06244
(860) 928-7437

USS CALIFORNIA (BB 44)
Mobile, AL; Oct. 17-22, 2002
Contact Harold Bean
616 West Lafayette
Staunton, IL 62088
(618) 635-5638

USS CASA GRANDE (LSD 13)
Virginia Beach, VA; Oct. 27-31, 2002
Contact Ben Lines
193 West Shore Road
New Preston, CT 06777
(860) 868-0408
benjunelines@aol.com

USS CHARLES J. BADGER (DD 657)
Charleston, SC; Oct. 13-16, 2002
Contact Robert Johnson
8 Thorndiike Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 224-0257
rajdd657@aol.com

USS CHESTER (CA 27)
Charleston, SC; Oct. 9-13, 2002
Contact Dean Ramirez
2058 Manila Bay Lane
Fort Mill, SC 29708-8524
(803) 548-0878
deanram@comporium.net

USS CITY OF DALHART (IX 156)
Pensacola, FL; Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 2002
Contact William Lyon
629 Cecil Way
Lexington, KY 40503
(606) 278-9692
papalyon1@msn.com

USS COCKRILL (DE 398)
Albany, NY; Oct. 27-30, 2002
Contact Donald barber
P.O. Box 533
Marathon, NY 13803
(607) 849-3975
donbarb@worldnet.att.net

USS COGSWELL (DD 651)
Seattle, WA; Oct. 17-19, 2002
Contact Frank Wille
P.O. Box 639
Longview, WA 98632
(360) 575-5239
E-mail fowille@longibre.com

USS COLUMBIA (CL 56)
Corpus Christi, TX; Oct. 2-6, 2002
Contact Bill Bohne
248 Worrell Drive
Springfield, PA 19064
(610) 543-9073
usncI56@cs.com
# Upcoming Reunions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USS CONYNGHAM (DD 371/DDG 17)</th>
<th>USS DUNCAN (DDR 874)</th>
<th>USS ELOKOMIN (AO 55)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia, PA; Jun. 11-15, 2003</td>
<td>Charleston, SC; Oct. 2-6, 2002</td>
<td>St. Augustine, FL; October 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Len Gordon</td>
<td>Contact Peter Murray</td>
<td>Contact Robert O’Sullivan Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 106</td>
<td>824 W. Murray Avenue Apt. H</td>
<td>25 Denny Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milltown, NJ 08850</td>
<td>Visalia, CA 93291-4858</td>
<td>Dochester, MA 02125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(732) 432-0588</td>
<td>(559) 622-9500</td>
<td>(617) 288-3755</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:ddggusboat@aol.com">ddggusboat@aol.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ddr874pm@pacbell.net">ddr874pm@pacbell.net</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:theeloman@aol.com">theeloman@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>USS CORAL SEA (CVA 43)</th>
<th>USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)</th>
<th>USS ETHAN ALLEN (SSBN/SSN 608)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Branson, MO; Oct. 10-13, 2002</td>
<td>Norfolk, VA; Oct. 14-18, 2002</td>
<td>Gaithersburg, MD; Oct. 4-6, 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Cordero</td>
<td>Contact LTJG Raymond</td>
<td>Contact Herb Richardson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1803 Goodwin Drive</td>
<td>Attn Public Affairs Office</td>
<td>8952 Centerway Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vista, CA 92084-3036</td>
<td>USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)</td>
<td>Gaithersburg, MD 20879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(760) 724-5388</td>
<td>FPO AE 09532-2830</td>
<td>(301) 977-6233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:mcordero@ncitimes.net">mcordero@ncitimes.net</a></td>
<td>(757) 534-1695/(757) 534-1576</td>
<td><a href="mailto:intrepid@ssbn608.org">intrepid@ssbn608.org</a></td>
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<th>USS DAVIS (DD 937)</th>
<th>USS EBERLE (DD 430)</th>
<th>USS FORT SNELLING (LSD 30)</th>
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<td>Laurel, MD; Oct. 3-6, 2002</td>
<td>Williamsburg, VA; Sept. 30-Oct. 3, 2002</td>
<td>Myrtle Beach, SC; Oct. 3-7, 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Carl Ross</td>
<td>Contact Robert McKenzie</td>
<td>Contact “Andy” Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6410 Sun Country Drive</td>
<td>309 Catawba Avenue</td>
<td>1113 Trenton Drive SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Port Richey, FL 34653</td>
<td>Newfield, NJ 08344</td>
<td>Decatur, AL 35603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(727) 847-0247</td>
<td>(856) 697-1587</td>
<td>(256) 351-0330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:cmross@aol.com">cmross@aol.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:guy936@hotmail.com">guy936@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ceanders@hiwaay.net">ceanders@hiwaay.net</a></td>
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<th>USS GATLING (DD 671)</th>
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<td>Albany, NY; Oct. 6-11, 2002</td>
<td>Norfolk, VA; Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Guy Herrington</td>
<td>Contact Arthur Kelley</td>
<td>Contact Gene Woodward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27282 Jenny Hye Lane</td>
<td>325 Beverly Road</td>
<td>2376 Scotchtown Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marydel, MD 21649</td>
<td>Douglasston, NY 11363-1124</td>
<td>Virginia Beach, VA 23454-6528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(410) 482-6348</td>
<td>(718) 225-7050</td>
<td>(757) 721-6028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:guy936@hotmail.com">guy936@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:afkdwk@aol.com">afkdwk@aol.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.geocities.com/ussgatlington/index.html">www.geocities.com/ussgatlington/index.html</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USS DECKER (DE 47)</th>
<th>USS ELDREDGE (DE 173)</th>
<th>USS GEORGE E. DAVIS (DE 357)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Myrtle Beach, SC; Oct. 13-17, 2002</td>
<td>Portsmouth, VA; Oct. 10-13, 2002</td>
<td>Mobile, AL; Oct. 3-6, 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Joe Alexander</td>
<td>Contact Francis Lippens</td>
<td>Contact Rod Hoffmaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3205 Falcon Lane</td>
<td>P.O. Box 332</td>
<td>851 Main Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 316</td>
<td>Aulander, NC 27805-0332</td>
<td>Mohrsville, PA 19541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilmington, DE 19808</td>
<td>(252) 345-1772</td>
<td>(610) 926-4590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(302) 239-2058</td>
<td>(757) 721-6028</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dinamlrs@aol.com">dinamlrs@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:jsphjry@aol.com">jsphjry@aol.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.ussfoote.com">www.ussfoote.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.geocities.com/ussgatlington/index.html">www.geocities.com/ussgatlington/index.html</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| USS DORTCH (DD 670) | USS ELMER MONTGOMERY (DE/FF 1082) | |
Upcoming Reunions

**USS GREENWICH BAY (AVP 41)**
Mystic, CT; Oct. 21-23, 2002
Contact Neal Bancroft
308 Warren Street
Greenville, OH
(937) 548-1702
nealilona@wesnet.com

**USS GRIGGS (APA 110)**
Charleston, SC; Oct. 10-13, 2002
Contact Charles Forshee
123 Cullen Court
Lexington, NC 27292
(336) 357-6476
cftorshee@lexcominc.net

**USS GRUNDY (APA 111)**
Charleston, SC; Oct. 10-13, 2002
Contact Daniel Brown
P.O. Box 282
Orefield, PA 18069
(610) 398-1174
dinamlrs@aol.com

**USS GYPSY (ARSD 1)**
Panama City Beach, FL; Oct. 3-6, 2002
Contact Bob McArdle
906 N. 7th Street
Bellevue, IA 52031
(563) 872-5436
hullbd1@iowatelecom.net

**USS HALSEY POWELL (DD 686)**
Corpus Christi, TX; Oct. 2-6, 2002
Contact Michael Baker
109 Dunton Avenue
Holland, MI 49424
(616) 392-3547
E-mail skippermike@wmol.com

**USS HARRY LEE (APA 10)**
Branson, MO; Oct. 2-6, 2002
Contact Patrick Smith
506 8th Street
Saxton, PA 16678
(814) 635-2847

**USS HASSAYAMPA (AO 145/TAO 145)**
Wickenburg, AZ; Nov. 15-17, 2002
Contact Vic Alasio
64 Grant Avenue
Cliffside Park, NJ 07010-3107
(201) 941-9120
vic@alsio.com

**USS HERMITAGE (AP 54/P 54)**
Montpelier, OH; Oct. 7-9, 2002
Contact Frank Calvaerse
37 Willow Ridge Lane
Lancaster, NY 14086-3257
(716) 656-9646
fac430@aol.com

**USS HOPEWELL (DD 681)**
Fall River, MA; Oct. 20-23, 2002
Contact Noel Nichols
Route 80 Box 881
Sherburne, NY 13815
(607) 336-3225
hopewell_dd681@hotmail.com

**USS HUGH PURVIS (DD 709)**
Portland, ME; Sept. 19-22, 2002
Contact Dennis Dow
P.O. Box 6021
Palm Harbor, FL 34684
(727) 771-7248
ddow01@aol.com

**USS HUSE (DE 145)**
Annapolis, MD; Oct. 23-27, 2002
Contact Dave Perlstein
7814 LaMirada Drive
Boca Raton, FL 33433
(561) 368-7167
dbp14@hotmail.com

**USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA 62)**
Branson, MO; Oct. 9-13, 2002
Contact Denis Bagley
P.O. Box 7185
North Brunswick, NJ 08902
(609) 689-3216
atlantismarketing@msn.com

**USS JOHN R. PIERCE (DD 753)**
Atlantic City, NJ; Oct. 22-25, 2002
Contact Robert Wilno
P.O. Box 489 Panama Road
Chatsworth, NJ 08019
(609) 726-1138
jrpdd753@aol.com

**USS JONAS INGRAM (DD 938)**
Jacksonville, FL; Oct. 24-27, 2002
Contact Pete Pennington
310 N. Franklin
Penn Argyl, PA 18072
(610) 863-3612
roz310@enter.net

**USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CV/CVA/CVS 39)**
Myrtle Beach, SC; Oct. 24-27, 2002
Contact Eugene Carroll
P.O. Box 131
Interlaken, NY 14847
(607) 532-4735
gcarroll@rochester.rr.com

**USS LEYTE (CV 32)**
Colorado Springs, CO; Oct. 10-13, 2002
Contact Richard Bolin
308 S. Maple Street
Farmer City, IL 61842
(309) 928-3552
leyte1956@aol.com

**USS LCS (L) 3-53**
Virginia Beach, VA; Oct. 2-6, 2002
Contact Thomas O’Brien
2325 Calvin Avenue
Norfolk, VA 23518
(757) 583-1070

**USS LST 307**
Myrtle Beach, SC; Oct. 16-19, 2002
Contact Buddy Sanford
P.O. Box 1601
Walterboro, SC 29488
(843) 538-7627
## Upcoming Reunions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USS LST 889</th>
<th>USS MENARD (APA 201)</th>
<th>USS NAVARRO (APA 215)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact King Richeson</td>
<td>Contact Jim DuBose</td>
<td>Contact Kenneth Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>781 Marcella Street</td>
<td>707 Winchester Drive</td>
<td>867 Fiesta Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Versailles, KY 40383</td>
<td>Fort Collins, CO 80526</td>
<td>San Mateo, CA 94403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(859) 873-8907</td>
<td>(970) 223-2373</td>
<td>(650) 341-1097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:kricheson@peoplepc.com">kricheson@peoplepc.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jim-dubose@msn.com">jim-dubose@msn.com</a></td>
<td>Cell (650) 245-4687</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USS LUZON (ARG 2)</th>
<th>USS MERTZ (DD 691)</th>
<th>USS OAK HILL (LSD 7)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corpus Christi, TX; Nov. 14-18, 2002</td>
<td>Biloxi, MS; Oct. 10-12, 2002</td>
<td>Charleston, SC; Oct. 24-27, 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Charles Mitchell</td>
<td>Contact James (Shorty) Powell</td>
<td>Contact Buddy Oney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 Patio Road</td>
<td>126 Jester Road</td>
<td>1506 O’Kelly Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middletown, NY 10941-1619</td>
<td>Saluda, SC 29138</td>
<td>Rockdale, TX 76567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(845) 692-5760</td>
<td>(864) 445-5058</td>
<td>(512) 446-2683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:lluzon@frontiernet.net">lluzon@frontiernet.net</a></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:uwbell@aol.com">uwbell@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USS LYMAN (DE 302)</th>
<th>USS MILLS (DER 383)</th>
<th>USS OMMANAYE BAY (CVE 79)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact Harry Pahel</td>
<td>Contact Roger Garner</td>
<td>Contact John Kirkland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30366 Gulf Stream Drive</td>
<td>1880 Hartland Center Road</td>
<td>16910 S. W. Monterey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canyon Lake, CA 92587</td>
<td>Collins, OH 44826-9704</td>
<td>King City, OR 97224-2030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(909) 244-4978</td>
<td>(419) 668-6880</td>
<td>(503) 684-6480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Vickers (865) 379-8454</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:hkirkland8@aol.com">hkirkland8@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USS LYMAN K. SWENSON (DD 729)</th>
<th>USS MISSISSIPPI (EAG 128)</th>
<th>USS ORLECK (DD 886)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reno, NV; Oct. 3-6, 2002</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX; Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 2002</td>
<td>Orange, TX; Oct. 3-6, 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Don Snider</td>
<td>Contact Roger Moscone</td>
<td>Contact Robert Orleck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1724 Bristol Court</td>
<td>757 Emory Street</td>
<td>P.O. Box 213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonita, CA 91902-4002</td>
<td>Imperial Beach, CA 91932-2231</td>
<td>Randolph, VT 05060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:elroy1@cox.net">elroy1@cox.net</a></td>
<td>(619) 423-5847</td>
<td>(802) 728-9806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:rmoscone@worldnet.att.net">rmoscone@worldnet.att.net</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:orleckb@innevi.com">orleckb@innevi.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USS MARSHALL (DD 676)</th>
<th>USS MONROVIA (APA 31)</th>
<th>USS PHAON (ARB 3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baton Rouge, LA; Oct. 25-27, 2002</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK; Oct. 2-6, 2002</td>
<td>Norfolk, VA; Oct. 10-12, 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Al Myers</td>
<td>Contact Dick Cushing</td>
<td>Contact James Brent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1245 E. 5th Street</td>
<td>8020 Alhambra Court</td>
<td>15142 St. Charles Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach, CA 90805</td>
<td>Spring Hill, FL 34606-6604</td>
<td>Gulfport, MS 39503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(562) 422-3980</td>
<td>(352) 684-1460</td>
<td>(228) 832-6014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:anyers7244@aol.com">anyers7244@aol.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bdcush@atlantic.net">bdcush@atlantic.net</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:j-brent@att.net">j-brent@att.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USS McCAFFERY (DD 860)</th>
<th>USS MONSSSEN (DD 798)</th>
<th>USS PICKAWAY (APA 222)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portsmouth, VA; Oct. 2-5, 2002</td>
<td>San Diego, CA; Oct. 10-13, 2002</td>
<td>Indianapolis, IN; Oct. 8-12, 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Ed Crowell</td>
<td>Contact Earl McClure</td>
<td>Contact Gene Givan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>132 Royal Palm Drive</td>
<td>2910 150th Street</td>
<td>735 Auvergue Ave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leesburg, FL 34748</td>
<td>Riverside, IA 52327</td>
<td>Indianapolis, IN 86203-1612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(352) 728-6930</td>
<td>(319) 648-2462</td>
<td>(317) 357-5203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:ecr0530477@aol.com">ecr0530477@aol.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:n0chn@att.net">n0chn@att.net</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:genevigan@aol.com">genevigan@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Upcoming Reunions

USS RENSHAW (DD/DDE 499)
St. Louis, MO; Oct. 3-6, 2002
Contact Ray Smith
109 Lynbrook Court
Greenbelt, MD  20770-1618
(301) 474-6127
rlsrenshaw@aol.com
www.destroyers.org/uss-renshaw

USS ROCHESTER (CA 124)
Norfolk, VA; Oct. 11-13, 2002
Contact Joseph Hill
4011 Ditty Road
Cookeville, TN  38506-7663
(931) 432-4848
Fax (931) 432-2534
jochillsr@multipro.com

USS ROCKY MOUNT (AGC 3)
San Diego, CA; Oct. 16-20, 2002
Contact John Vreeland
3710 Armstrong Street
San Diego, CA  92111
(619) 277-0689

USS SALEM (CA 139)
Branson, MO; Oct. 17-20, 2002
Contact Bob Daniels
P.O. Box 493139
Leesburg, FL  34749
(352) 315-1397

USS SAN MARCOS (LSD 25)
Biloxi, MS; Oct. 24-27, 2002
Contact Ray Willis
2899 Sherwood Drive
Lima, OH  45805
(419) 331-4699
dinamlrs@aol.com

USS SAVAGE (DE/DER 386)
Galveston, TX; Sept. 29-Oct. 4, 2002
Contact Raymond Zachgo
181 Denny Lane
Winchester, VA
(540) 662-6470
raymilzachgo@msn.com

USS SCANIA (AKA 40)
Miami Beach, Fl; Oct. 16-20, 2002
Contact Charlie Rosskam
13301 SW 79 Avenue
Miami, FL  33156
(305) 238-8309

USS SELFREDGE (DD 357)
Laughlin, NV; Oct. 6-9, 2002
Contact Clifford Chambers
551 Jefferson Drive
Lake Charles, LA  70605
(337) 477-1567

USS SELLERS (DDG 11)
Charleston, SC; Oct. 17-20, 2002
Contact Hilton Roberts
634 North Quartz Street
Gilbert, AZ  85234
(480) 892-8033
hilton.i.roberts@boeing.com

USS SHIELDS (DD 596)
San Diego, CA; Oct. 17-20, 2002
Contact D Burchfield
415 Smythe Street
Kosciusko, MS  39090
(662) 289-4745
adbshields@aol.com

USS SIERRA (AD 18)
Niagara Falls, NY; Oct. 2-5, 2002
Contact Frank Savino
30 Indian Hill Drive
Rochester, NY  14624
(585) 889-1056
fs13034@aol.com

USS SMITH (DD 378)
Midland, TX; Oct. 7-10, 2002
Contact “ED” Buie
3402 West Wedgewood
Midland, TX  79707
(915) 699-7017

USS SOLACE (AH 5)
San Diego, CA; Oct. 15-17, 2002
Contact Cecil Blackford
28301 Burlingame Court
Tehachapi, CA  93561
(618) 823-0345

USS SPRINGFIELD (CL66/CLG 7/SSN 761)
Nashville, TN; Aug. 14-18, 2002
Contact John Adams
420 Elk Run Road
Hudson, NH  03051-3542
(603) 598-2806
johnmrwillie@aol.com

USS TELFAIR (APA 210)
Orlando, FL; Oct. 4-6, 2002
Contact John Tonyes
8460 Tom Costine
Lakeland, FL  33809
(863) 859-0878
flfox1@juno.com

USS THOMASTON (LSD 28)
Great Lakes, IL; Oct. 10-12, 2002
Contact Gary Jennings
644 Wilbur Court
Gurnee, IL  60031
(847) 688-5353
garyj@prodigy.net

USS TOM GREEN COUNTY (LST 1159)
Portland, OR; Sept. 20-22, 2002
Contact Jim Harp
1731 S. Lake Stickney Drive
Lynden, WA  98037
(425) 745-1010
jharpj@aol.com

USS TRITON (SSRN/SSN 586)
Norfolk, VA; Oct. 25-27, 2002
Contact Harry Hampson
3404 Montgomery Place
Virginia Beach, VA  23452
(757) 463-7875
harry1523@cox.net
### Upcoming Reunions

**USS TRUCKEE (AO / TAO 147)**
Baltimore, MD; Oct. 10-13, 2002
Contact Jim King
101 Cedarcliff Court
Glen Burnie, MD 21060
(410) 761-6459
jkingusnr@aol.com

**USS VALLEY FORGE (CV 45/ CVA 45/CVS45/LPH 8/CG 50)**
Las Vegas, NV; Oct. 2-6, 2002
Contact Gordon Wilcher
1241 N. El Prado Drive
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
(760) 446-2060

**USS VAMMEN (DE 644)**
Corpus Christi, TX; Oct. 10-13, 2002
Contact Charles Postel
4217 Montego Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78411-5067
(361) 855-6378
cpostel@gte.net

**USS VAN VALKENBURGH (DD 656)**
Scottsdale, AZ; Nov. 7-10, 2002
Contact Lee Henry
7337 E. Claremont Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85250-5526
(480) 991-1124
leelhenry@juno.com

**USS VESOLE (DD/DDR 878)**
San Diego, CA; Oct. 2-6, 2002
Contact Roy Gorenflo
32 Charlotte Road
Fishkill, NY 12524-2707
(845) 896-2074
E-mail www.ussvesole.org

**USS WILLIAM F. SEIVERLING (DE 441)**
San Antonio, TX; Oct. 2-6, 2002
Contact Henry Jasper Love III
2084 Hollywood Drive
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520-8826
Telefax (228) 467-8538
lovede441j@aol.com

**USS WORCESTER (CL 144)**
Daytona Beach, FL; Oct. 3-6, 2002
Contact Phil Harter
24 Jansen Road
New Paltz, NY 12561
(845) 255-2603
philharter@aol.com

**USS YANCEY (AKA 93)**
Charleston, SC; Nov. 7-10, 2002
Contact George Clifton
4660 West 89th Place
Hometown, IL 60456
(708) 425-8531
clifs@ameritech.net

**AGC/LCC**
N. Myrtle Beach, SC; Nov. 2-6, 2002
Contact Bill Kearney
4 Cedar Pond Drive #3
Warwick, RI 02886
(401) 823-9995
billteton@juno.com
or wdlsr@bellsouth.net

**AIRASRON (VS 28)**
Alexandria, VA; Oct. 4-6, 2002
Contact Harry Lee
6495 Tayack Place # 102
Alexandria, VA 22312
(703) 658-9516
hlee36@cox.rr.com

**ASR/ARS ASSOCIATION**
Reno, NV; Oct. 13-17, 2002
Contact Chuck Micle
7310 S. Lake Joanna Drive
Panama City, FL 32404
(850) 913-8067
ckmicle@juno.com

**A-3 SKYWARRIOR ASSOCIATION**
Van Nuys, CA; Oct. 25-28, 2002
Contact Al Rankin
1921 Vermont
Manhattan, KS 66502
(785) 341-7041
tanker@a3skywarrior.com
www.a3skywarrior.com

**EAST COAST CHIEF PHOTOMATES**
Virginia Beach, VA; Oct. 3-7, 2002
Contact Tim Timmerman
1137 Eppington Drive
Charleston, SC 29414
(803) 765-2949
dctimmerman@earthlink.net

**FLEET AIRWING SEVEN**
Pensacola, FL; Nov. 6-10, 2002
Contact Allan Fountain
12884 Santa Piedro Street N.
Lillian, AL 36549
(251) 962-4165
jeanfountain@gulftel.com

**NAS NEW YORK**
Virginia Beach, VA; Oct. 17-20, 2002
Contact Chet Atkinson
P.O. Box 62066
Virginia Beach, VA 23466
(757) 495-1338

**NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND RESERVE PROGRAM**
Phoenix, AZ; Nov. 1-3, 2002
Contact Al Platt
4335 Miriam Place
La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 660-0232
awplatt@cox.net

**NAVAL NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY**
Virginia Beach, VA; Oct. 3-7, 2002
Contact Tim Timmerman
1137 Eppington Drive
Charleston, SC 29414
(803) 765-2949
dctimmerman@earthlink.net

**NAVCOMMSTA ICELAND**
Myrtle Beach, SC; Oct. 10-13, 2002
Contact Gary Tucker
P.O. Box 82
Shepherdstown, WV 25443
(304) 876-6628
gtuck6628@earthlink.net
Upcoming Reunions

NET TENDER
St. Louis, MO; Oct. 8-11, 2002
Contact Ed Pinson
5290 S. Valley Street
Boise, ID 83709-5153
(208) 362-2659
epinson@spro.net

NM CB 16
Chino, CA; Oct. 5, 2002
Contact Chuck Blanding
9009 Appaloosa Court
Alta Loma, CA 91737-1457
or Al Hegney at (909) 627-3461

NM CB 22
Gulfport, MS; Mar. 5-7, 2004
Contact “Gene” Smith
9390 Tulane Road
Orange, TX 77630
(409) 745-0116
gene@pnx.com

PACIFIC NW NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHY
Everett, WA; Oct. 5, 2002
Contact Jerry Craig
P.O. Box 3302
Lacey, WA 98509
(360) 491-2388
c1316@attbi.com

SILVER EAGLES ASSOCIATION
Gainesville, FL; Oct. 24-27, 2002
Contact Bob Fife
187 Spruce Street
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168
(386) 423-1659
bob32168@telocity.com

SUBMARINE SCHOOL OFFICERS CLASS 1950
San Antonio, TX; Nov. 5-7, 2002
Contact Tom Lambertson
P.O. Box 86
Port Aransas, TX 78373
(361) 749-4598
tjandfrl@centurytel.net

UNITED FRUIT COMPANY LINE/ USS ANTIQUA/ ARIEL/ MERA K/ MIZAR/ TALAMANCA/ TAZ RAZED
Kissimmee, FL; Oct. 10-12, 2002
Contact Harvey Rathel
4568 SE 115th Street
Bellevue, FL 34420
(352) 245-3179
ssreunion02@aol.com

VF 53
Reno, NV; Oct. 27-30, 2002
Contact Charles Darrow
1455 Rice Road
Fallon, NV 89406-9449
(775) 423-6137
cbdarr@aiinc.com

VP 16
Orange Park, FL; Oct. 17-19, 2002
Contact Ralph Lord
5924 Wending Court
Jacksonville, FL 32244
(904) 771-5446
ann_lord@bellsouth.net

VP 17/ VAHM 10
Colorado Springs, CO; Oct. 4-6, 2002
Contact Russ Schulz
55 Birchwood Drive
Doylestown, PA 18901-2408
(215) 340-9158
rks64mrs@aol.com

VP 40
San Diego, CA; Oct. 8-12, 2002
Contact Robert Foss
3213 Saundra Circle
West Des Moines, IA 50266-2029
(515) 222-0112
robfoss@aol.com

VP 45
San Diego, CA; Oct. 9-13, 2002
Contact Tom Golder
1525 Soplo Road SE
Albuquerque, NM 87123
(505) 292-8494
tvgold@aol.com

VP 93
Chesterfield, MI; Nov. 2, 2002
Contact Howard Randell, Jr.
21773 N. Center Street
Northville, MI 48167-2113
(248) 344-1969
g5av8or@aol.com

VA 72
 Ft. Worth, TX; Oct. 11-13, 2002
Contact Johnny Bittick
5885 FM 1830
Argyle, TX 76226
(940) 241-1182
johnb40@juno.com

VA 174
(VF 174/ VF 13/ VB 81)
Jacksonville, FL; Nov. 1-3, 2002
Contact Bob Kiem
2836 River Oak Drive
Orange, Park, FL 32073-6535
(904) 269-0341
bobkiem@aol.com

VAH 1
Charleston, SC; Nov. 1-3, 2002
Contact Rube Kluksdahl
1678 Dawn Brook Court
Powhatan, VA 23139-6953
(804) 598-4379
rube-k@msn.com

VETERANS OF ALL THREE WARS
San Francisco, CA; Dec. 14-15, 2002
Contact Christie Morgan
P.O. Box 386
Dayton, NV 89403
(775) 463-2477
johnfan@earthlink.net
Upcoming Reunions

VQ ASSOCIATION
Lancaster, PA; Oct. 10-14, 2002
Contact J.D. Meyer
3918 Skyview Drive
Mount Airy, MD  21771
(301) 607-9339
jigdogm@aol.com

VR 771/772/773/774
Monrovia, CA; Oct. 6, 2002
Contact Paul Scandlyn
1405 Mountain View Drive
Forest Grove, OR  97116-3305
(503) 357-7253
p.scandlyn@verizon.net

VT 10
Foster City, CA; Oct. 3-6, 2002
Contact Don Simonsen
4454 Hummel Drive
Orcutt, CA  93455
(805) 937-6204

301ST SEABEES
Pensacola, FL; Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 2002
Contact William Lyon
629 Cecil Way
Lexington, KY  40503
(859) 278-9692
papalyon1@msn.com

Due to space constraints and the overwhelming number of reunions, we are listing columns for reunion name(s), date(s) and contact numbers for the September reunions.

USS ABSD 1, Sept. 15-18, (801) 374-6126
USS Albert W. Grant (DD 649), Sept. 25-27, (386) 673-0099
USS Antietam (CV/CVA/CVS 36/CG 54), Sept. 26-29, (703) 768-6419
USS Appalachian (AGC1), Oct 2, (317) 898-8173
USS Attu (CVE 102), Sept. 17-22, (337) 762-4656
USS Bangust (DE-739), Sept 4-8, (727) 347-6630
USS Barton (DD 722), Sept. 11-15, (419) 433-2778
USS Baseline (DDE/DD 824), Sept. 23-29, (530) 621-3914
USS Becuna (SS 319), Sept. 22-24, (860) 889-2846
USS Belleau Wood (CVL 24), Sept. 18-21, (727) 848-5409
USS Birmingham (CL 62), Sept. 11-15, (618) 826-4432
USS Bollinger (APA 234), Sept. 24-26, (936) 642-1704
USS Calhoun County (LST 519) Sept 24 – 26, (513) 521-8716
USS Calvert (APA 32), Sept. 11-15, (507) 789-6344
USS Charles Lawrence (DE 53/APD 37), Sept. 10-13, (301) 620-4045
USS Clark (DD 361), Sept. 12-15, (937) 848-7980
USS Cleveland (LPD-7), Sept 26-29, (972) 723-3839
USS Columbus (CA 74/CG 12/SSN 762), Sept. 18-21, (540) 427-1090
USS Cone (DD 866), Sept. 18-21, (616) 866-2012
USS Consolation (AH 15), Sept. 19-22, (507) 451-4924
USS Constant (MSO-427), Aug 31-Sept 2, (303) 699-4896
USS Cotton (DD 669), Sept. 18-22, (404) 373-0120
USS Curtiss (AV-4), Sept 4-7, (952) 891-5954
USS Davison (DD 618/DMS 37), Sept. 10-15, (619) 444-5384
USS DeHaven (DD 727), Sept. 24-29, (405) 699-2995
USS Denver (CL-58), Sept 26-29, (618) 466-2418
USS Des Moines(CA-134), Aug 2-4, (513) 481-1873
USS Edision (DD 439), Sept. 22-24, (413) 596-3752
USS Emory S. Land (AS 39), Sept. 20-22, (757) 583-0284
USS Ernest G. Small (DD/DDR-838), Sept 26-29, (559) 275-0433
USS Everett F. Larson (DD/DDR 830), Sept. 30-Oct. 4, (937) 667-9208
USS Fargo (CL-106), Sept 12-15, (757) 499-5076
USS Fulton (AS-11), Sept 4-8, (925) 513-9275
USS George Clymer (APA 27), Sept. 19-22, (734) 676-7671
USS Graffias (AF 29), Sept. 19-22, (847) 299-0248
USS Greenfish (SS-351), Sept 16-22, (417) 532-9451
USS Hale (DD 642), Sept. 15-18, (856) 456-5227
USS Healy (DD 672), Sept. 12-15, (920) 733-4596
USS Henley (DD-672), Sept 12-14, (518) 582-5516
USS Heywood (APA-6), Sept 19-23, (513) 474-9324
USS Hollandia (CVE 97), Sept. 17-19, (314) 458-6851
USS Honolulu (CL-48/SSN-718), Sept 5-8, (949) 644-6105
USS Hornet (CV 8/12/CVA 12/CVS 12), Sept. 11-15, (941) 408-9778
USS Hyman (DD 732), Sept. 1-8, (440) 439-1885
USS Ingersoll (DD 652/990), Sept 19-22, (619) 424-5940
USS Jamestown (AGP 3), Sept. 25-28, (850) 455-3726
USS James K. Polk (SSBN/SSN-645), July 25-28, (781) 237-3004
USS Joseph Strauss (DDG 16), Sept. 19-22, (716) 985-4273
USS Jupiter (AVS-8), Sept 8-12, (770) 496-0812
USS Kleinsmith (APD 134), Sept. 26-29, (914) 591-0260
USS LaPorte (APA 151), Sept. 26-28, (607) 722-1342
USS LCS (L) 1-130, Sept. 18-21, (801) 295-0909
USS Lewis Hancock (DD673), Sept 18-22, (724) 834-0370
USS LST (246), Sept. 18-22, (757) 426-9283
USS LST (372) Sept 12-15, (217) 678-8145
USS Marcus Island (CVE-77), Sept 26-29, (619) 264-3575
USS Maryland (BB 46), Sept. 25-29, (504) 885-5334
USS Mellette (APA 156), Sept. 11-15, (309) 476-8717
USS Memphis (CL 13), Sept. 26-28, (276) 623-1626
USS Miami (CL 89), Sept. 15-22, (410) 641-8010
USS Missouri (BB-63), Aug 26-Sept 4, (803) 494-2111
USS Mount McKinley (AGC 7), Sept. 11-15, (509) 534-3649
USS Mugford (DD 389), Sept. 17-22, (337) 762-4656

July - Sept.  Shift Colors  25
Upcoming Reunions

USS Nassau (CVE 16), Sept. 18-21, (909) 795-6070
USS Natrona (APA-214), Sept 23-27, (410) 838-6890
USS Nechess (AO 47), Sept. 5-8, (330) 633-3329
USS New Mexico (BB 40), Sept. 26-29, (636) 949-9413
USS Otus (AS/ARG-20), Sept 5-6, (520) 325-9874
USS Phoenix (CL-46), Aug 18-24, (360) 295-3811
USS Pictor (AF 54), Sept. 19-21, (307) 382-2293
USS Pollux (AS/AMS-2/AK-4), Sept 25-29, (850) 994-0416
USS Prevail (AGS20/AM107), Sept 18-20, (609) 926-3410
USS Princeton (CVL23) Aug 21-25, (724) 222-7289
USS Pursuit (AGS 17/AM 108), Sept. 26-28, (302) 875-8095
USS Ranier (AE5), Sept 26-28, (620) 365-2535
USS Randall (APA 224), Sept. 15-19, (732) 367-6472
USS Rigel (AF-58/AR-11), Sept 5-8, (315) 344-7390
USS Russell (DD414/DDG-59) Sept 18-22, (619) 582-1337
USS San Diego (CLAA 53), Sept. 5-9, (856) 931-0959
USS Schenck (DD 159) / USS Leary (DD 158), Sept. 18-22, (703) 356-6173
USS Scorpion (SS 278/SSN 589) / USS George Washington (SSBN 598), Sept 12-15, (901) 358-7038
USS Sepulga (AO 20), Sept 16-18, (409) 722-0087
USS Sevier (APA-233), Sept 26-28, (860) 749-3577
USS Shelby (APA-105), Sept 26-29, (703) 822-9262
USS Shelton (DD 790/DE 407), Sept. 19-21, (618) 475-3248
USS Springfield (CL66/CLG-7/SSN-761), Aug 14-18, (603) 598-2806
USS Strong (DD 467/758), Sept. 10-15, (618) 262-8964
USS Sylvania (AKA-44/AFS-2), Set 20-22, (517) 663-4777
USS Texas (BB-35/CGN-39), Sept 27-30, (973) 893-1234
USS Thomas (DE-102), Sept 26-28, (859) 596-0541
USS Thomas Jefferson (APA-30), Sept 20-22, (757) 587-7261
USS Topkea (CLG-8), Aug 21-25, (619) 230-3328
USS Trathen (DD 530), Sept. 12-14, (540) 459-7272
USS Trenton (CL-11), Sept 11-15, (651) 633-7868
USS Tucson (CL 98), Sept. 23-25, (609) 208-9938
USS Turner (DD/DDR 834), Sept. 11-15, (717) 764-3834
USS Vincennes (CL-64) Sept. 13-16, (516) 437-0524
USS Waldron (DD 699), Aug. 28- Sept. 1, (425) 391-4343
USS WASP (CV7) Set 12-15, (901) 358-7038
USS Wayne (APA 54), Sept. 16-20, (603) 399-7256
USS Wichita (CA 45) / Tuscaloosa (CA 37), Sept. 29-Oct. 5, (205) 553-1550
USS Wiltse (DD 716), Sept. 18-21, (775) 827-8163
USS Winooski (AO-38), Sept 12-15, (412) 824-0262
USS Zeilin (APA-3), Sept 18-21, (909) 795-5318
4th Special Seabee, Aug 29-Sept 1, (920) 684-8602

New Retired Operations staff member
The Navy Retired Operations Section welcomes the new Retired Activities Program (RAO) Program Manager ASCM(AW/SW) Michael Stambaugh. Master Chief Stambaugh comes to us from USS Nimitz. He is assigned to PERS-62 and can be reached at 800-255-8950 ext. 2309 or p62r@persnet.navy.mil.

VA Agent Orange information
For information on Agent Orange, go the Veterans Administration’s website (http://www.va.gov/vbs/health/), then scroll down to VHA Programs. After clicking on this site, scroll down and you will see Agent Orange. Also, there is a recently established toll-free help line for Agent Orange at 800-749-8387.

Social Security information for survivors
Widow(er)s may be eligible to receive Social Security Benefits at age 60. If you are interested in obtaining more information on the subject please contact your nearest Social Security Administration Office or call 800-772-1213.
Ready Reference Phone Numbers

Air Force Retired Affairs  (800) 531-7502
Arlington National Cemetery (703) 695-3250 or (703) 695-3255
Army Retired Affairs  (800) 336-4909
Awards Information (Washington, D.C.) (202) 685-1770
Coast Guard Retired Affairs  (800) 772-8724
DEERS Verification  (800) 538-9552
Defense Finance and Accounting Service Cleveland, Active Duty (800) 346-3374
DFAS Cleveland, Retired Pay Customer Service  (800) 321-1080
DFAS Denver, Annuity Section  (800) 435-3396
Dept. of Justice Radiation Compensation Program  (800) 729-7327
I.D. Cards, Benefits and Eligibility (800) 443-9297 or (901) 874-3360
Internal Revenue Service  (800) 829-1040
Marine Corps Retired Affairs  (800) 336-4649
National Personnel Records Center (314) 538-2050
Naval Reserve Personnel Center (Records)  (866) 250-4778
Navy Worldwide Locator  (901) 874-3388
Navy Lodge Reservation Service  (800) 628-9466
Navy Retired Activities Office  (800) 255-8950
Navy Uniform Shop  (800) 368-4088
Reserve Component SBP Section (Code 416) (800) 535-2699
Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance (SGLI)  (800) 419-1473
Shift Colors Magazine  (901) 874-3154
Social Security Administration (SSA)  (800) 772-1213
Ships Historian (Washington, D.C.)  (202) 433-3643
TRICARE Headquarters  (303) 676-3526
TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program  (877) 363-6337
Armed Forces Retirement Home (Gulfport, Mississippi)  (800) 332-3527
U.S. Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Home  (800) 422-9988
VA National Service Life Insurance (NSLI)  (800) 669-8477
VA Regional Office  (800) 827-1000
VA Service Department Burial Benefits  (800) 697-6947
Veteran’s Group Life Insurance (VGLI)  (800) 419-1473
If I have direct deposit, why do I need to contact DFAS to update my address?

Even when your pay is sent directly to your bank, it is important to notify the DFAS Cleveland Center to keep your correspondence address updated. This address is used to mail account statements, distributions from pensions, annuities, retirement or profit-sharing plans, IRAs, insurance contracts, Form 1099R, and other correspondence from the servicing center. DFAS also manages the address list used to send your copy of Shift Colors magazine.

Who is responsible for address change notifications?

It is the retiree’s and annuitant’s responsibility to notify the appropriate servicing center whenever their address changes.

To whom should survivors report the death of a retiree?

Survivors should report retiree deaths to the DFAS Cleveland Center’s casualty office at 800-269-5170. Faxes can be sent to the office at 800-469-6559.

Annuitants should notify DFAS Denver Center when they have a change of address or questions regarding their Survivor Benefit Plan or Retired Serviceman’s Family Protection Plan:

DFAS-DE/FRB
6760 East Irvington Place
Denver, CO 80279-6000
800-435-3396 or (303) 676-6552
Fax: 800-982-8459
E-mail: DFAS-DE-FRB@dfas.mil

To whom should retirees and annuitants address inquiries regarding their accounts?

To change your address or ask questions regarding your pay, contact:

DFAS Cleveland Center
Retired Pay Operations
PO Box 99191
Cleveland, OH 44199-1126
800-321-1080 or (216) 522-5955