



VP-68 Hawk's Nest

Volume No. 8

VP68 Alumni Association

December 2001



Happy Holidays

FALL MUSTER SUCCESS

The annual Fall Muster was a great success in spite of all the troubles we were facing and the heightened level of security on Andrews AFB. Attendance was good and we elected a new Vice President, Lou Abbott. Since this event occurred not long after the 9-11 events, gate security was high. The Sports Break was glad to see us, business had been really slow. The pizza was plentiful and the liquid refreshments bottomless. We were lucky enough to sign-up new members and mingle with the alumni that attended. Skipper Lemmons informally briefed us on many of the events that had taken place since 9-11 that he had participated in and others contributed their stories of happenings in and around the 'beltway'.



Everyone had a great time, the alumni did what makes the alumni great. We gathered in the face of adversity, shared good times with old friends and renewed friendships that will last us a lifetime. Your partici-

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Cold War Service Medal

To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the award of a Cold War service medal to members of the Armed Forces who served honorably during the Cold War era. (Introduced in the House)

HR 2165 Below are excerpts from the bill

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Sec. 1134. Cold War Service Medal



(a) MEDA: AUTHORIZED- The Secretary concerned shall issue the Cold War service medal to persons eligible to receive the medal under subsection (b). The Cold War service medal shall be of an appropriate design approved by the Secretary of Defense, with ribbons, lapel pins, and other appurtenances.

(b) ELIGIBLE PERSONS- The following persons are eligible to receive the Cold War service medal:

(1) A person who--

(A) performed active duty or inactive duty training as a member of an armed force during the Cold War; . . .

President's Corner

Be positive, there is a good side to everything that happens.

While growing up, my mom would reiterate the “be positive” message just about every time I would shuffle into the house sniveling or whining, which was just about every time I entered the house.

The events of September 11, 2001 stumped me. I couldn't find anything to be positive about. The dedication and bravery of the Police, Fire and rescue teams and how people, strangers, helped and saved each other is common knowledge but laced with tragedy.

It has been said that just like the day JFK was killed, we will all remember where we were and what we were doing on 9-11. Jeanie and I were camped onboard the largest missile base in the world, F. E. Warren AFB, Cheyenne, WY.

Prior to September 11, I was of the belief that one of the primary components of Air Force Security JQRs was, hassling sailors. The vast majority of my interaction with Air Force Security has been unpleasant at best. One interaction may have made the VP-68 archives as a legend. Even on September 10th, passing through the main gate involved a higher difficulty factor than required.

Well, everything changed on 9-11. In just one short day F.E. Warren AFB Security turned into a well-trained, professional unit. The base was locked down in minutes. The Exchange and Commissary were closed, except for duty personal and two security airmen, in full Kevlar, joined us at the campground. Airman Milks and his partner were tasked with keeping the dozen or so retirees together, disseminating information and then directing us off station at the appointed time, after searching all of the trucks and campers. They completed their tasking in a professional, thorough manner while exhibiting concern, compassion and common sense. On the way to the gate, there was a Kevlar clad Airman on every corner watching a few AF vehicles and us. The gate looked like some thing out of a movie, Jersey barriers everywhere and no fewer than one hundred security personnel and each one

appeared to know what they were doing. Sailor hassling must be good training because they looked that good, in a professional military way.

On the way home we stopped at Ellsworth AFB in Rapid City, SD, B-1 Bomber Country. This was a week later and the base was down to Threatcon Charlie, translating to the campground being open. Again the security force was everywhere in sight. And again the security personnel were the most polite, courteous and helpful that I have ever experienced. But they were through; we waited in line to enter and we were searched at random.

As we were leaving Ellsworth, we pulled into the fuel pits, the truck stop where I-90, Ellsworth Road and the runway all intercept. As we fueled a loaded B-1 took off directly overhead, in full afterburner. We had never experienced noise of such volume, depth and completeness. We felt the B-1 in every cell of our bodies. And what a sight, watching the B-1 climb out, with two huge embers for tailpipes and the overall view distorted by the heat. This was the most beautiful non-Navy aircraft I have ever seen.

Oh yea.. being positive. The professional USAF personnel and the awesome equipment that I was privileged to witness (in action) show me that our Marines will have support and our Tail-hookers will have some relief in Afghanistan.

The sailor in me compels me to add one more comment, following is the clause that was removed from the end of the last sentence: as soon as the club, pool and billeting are constructed.

Happenings

Meet the new VP –Lou Abbott, if you need to contact Lou, he can be reached via : Loua-bbot@ameritel.net

Crew News

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the members of CAC 4 ‘Sky Pigs’ and the many trials they have endured this past year.

Official Business

Shift Colors - The newsletter for Navy Retirees

The Navy Bureau of Personnel publishes a newsletter familiar to all retirees on a quarterly basis. Until now the publication was mailed to retirees only. If any data was important to any recipient, it had to be copied or cut from the publication.

Shift Colors is now available on the Internet for anyone with web access to read – and there are many articles of interest to those who spent time in the Navy but not long enough to retire. In the April-June 2001 issue, for instance, there are articles about how and where to obtain personal records generated while on active or reserve duty. In each issue there are now pages of Upcoming Reunions whose dates are sent to BuPers for dissemination to all retirees – there were nine pages of them in the last issue.

On the Internet, go to <http://www.bupers.navy.mil/periodicals/shiftcolors/index.html>, to view the last few issues. They are in Adobe format and one issue can take up to 4 minutes to download with a 56k modem.

Reminders

There are still prints, rubber stamps and other squadron items available from your alumni association. I am sure we will have a good stock at the Spring Fling, but if you can't wait or need something just in time for Christmas, get in touch with Jim Rozycki for current prices. Jim can be found at rozycki-jim@aol.com or the below address.

Make checks payable to **VP-68 Alumni Association** and send them to:

VP-68 Alumni Association
2414 Rolling Farms Road
Glenshaw, PA 15116

Once again it is membership renewal time for annual members. Check the address label and if there is a **M-01** next to your name, your dues are due. Please send a check to the VP-68 Alumni Association, at the above address, for \$10.00. If there is not a M-01 next to your name, you are a life member or your dues are paid for 2002. Your timely renewal will ensure you continue to receive all the alumni information and newsletters.

Why not consider becoming a life member? Your check for \$100 dollars guarantees no future price increases and you never have to write another check. If you are over 70, you can become a life member for \$25.00. This way you can stop the annoying reminders, never have to worry about missing any newsletters, alumni events or other exciting information.

From the Secretary's Corner

Please get in touch with me if you move or change email addresses, it is the only way we can keep track of you. Send your information to me by email - wright_kathleen@bah.com or snail mail - 4773 W. Braddock Road, Apt 204, Alexandria, VA 22311.

By popular demand here are some Navy web addresses that might be of some interest: Keep watching here, we will add more information in the next newsletter.

Naval Reserves

<http://www.navres.navy.mil/>

This site is the central gateway for online resources for the Navy Reserve
Navy Reserve Personnel Center

<http://www.nrpcweb.nola.navy.mil/Index.htm>

Have any questions regarding reserve personnel records, retirement point accreditation, commissary cards etc? This is your place.

Armed Forces Vacation Club

<http://www.afvclub.com/>

Military Report

Is the military community's largest Benefits and QOL newsletter. Start your own subscription to **Military Report** today at

<http://www.militaryreport.com>.

Newsletter Inputs

Your inputs for the newsletter should be sent to Dick Fickling, p3css1@aol.com for inclusion in the quarterly mailing. The cutoff for the next addition is February 28, 2002. Need items of interest, retirements and other Alumni news.

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