



ANA **GRAMPAW PETTIBONE**
SQUADRON INC.

1 MAY 2018

www.gpsana.org



Editor Hal McDonnel

The Grampaw Pettibone Squadron is a non-profit organization (IRS Sect. 501(C)(4) which, through meetings, discussions, speaker programs, and periodic field trips, serves to educate squadron members and the general public on the requirements of an adequate national defense, especially maritime aviation, which is essential to a free society, and to support the military professionals (active and reserve) responsible for many aspects of national defense. GPS also seeks to foster the strong pride, esprit, and fraternal bonds which exist among those associated with Naval Aviation.

THE GPS LUNCHEON MEETING

WILL BE HELD ON

THURSDAY, 10 MAY 2018

AT THE

GARDEN GROVE ELKS LODGE

LOCATED AT 11551 TRASK Ave., GARDEN GROVE

Hangar doors open at 1130, Luncheon is at 1200, secure at 1330.

Please make reservations before 9 PM on Monday 7 May.

COST IS \$18.00. FOR RESERVATIONS Please E-mail

RayLeCompte34@Gmail/com or by Phone: 562-287-4846



Emeritus Professor

About our speaker's topic:

THE ROLE OF ELECTRONICS IN THE WWII US NAVY, AND ITS POST WAR LEGACY

About our speaker:

BILL SCHULTZ, PHD

Professor and chair of the Computer Information Systems Department at the State University of New York College in Buffalo for 22 years, 1975 - 1997.

At the beginning of his senior year in high school, at age 17, Bill enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps for pilot training. He was a private, US Army, on inactive duty all through his senior year in high school, 1944/45. Germany surrendered ending the war in Europe one month before



US Navy 1945 – 1948

Bill's high school graduation in May, 1945. The Army Air Corps discontinued its intensive training for pilots, so Bill received an honorable discharge from the US Army before he graduated from high school. He applied to the US Navy flight program, but the Navy found a vision problem that resulted in rejection for Navy pilot training. He then enlisted in the US Navy Radar and Radio Program.

On completion of the 46 weeks of intensive training in aviation electronics, Bill served on the aircraft carrier USS Philippine Sea, CV-47, the last of the Essex Class carriers. After a short assignment on the Philippine Sea as an aviation electronics maintenance petty officer, he served as an instructor for two years in the Fleet Airborne Electronics Training Unit, Atlantic Fleet, at the Naval Air Station in Norfolk, VA, to train Navy pilots in the use of all electronic equipment onboard US Navy aircraft. This two-month program for Navy pilots included both hands-on training on the ground, as well as in-flight training, in the use of airborne electronics.

After completing military service, Bill attended the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he received his bachelors, masters, and doctorate in electrical engineering. He was an instructor and assistant professor in the College of Engineering, University of Wisconsin, 1955 - 1958.

After receiving his doctorate, he was employed at the Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory of Cornell University, at the Buffalo, NY Airport. (1958 – 1975) Cornell Aero Lab was the former research lab of the Curtiss Wright Aircraft facility in Buffalo, where the P-40, C-46, and Curtiss Wright SB2C dive bomber were manufactured during WW II. He was a research engineer and assistant department head of the Avionics Department and was the Head of the Computer Center for six years. Part of his assignment at the Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory was to serve as a full-time visiting assistant professor, in the Graduate School of Electrical Engineering, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, for the 1960-1961 academic year.

Bill was professor and chair of the Computer Information Systems Department at the State University of New York College in Buffalo for 22 years, 1975 - 1997.

APRIL LUNCHEON SPEAKER BRIEFING INFANTRY RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON IN 1970 VIETNAM

By David L. Malmad PAO

On Apr 12, 2018, the Grampaw Pettibone Squadron was honored to have as its guest speaker, Mr. Doug Milliken. Mr. Milliken, a retired automotive engineer, provided the audience with an overview of his experience, as a member of the 4th Infantry Reconnaissance Platoon, in remote locations in the Central Highlands of Vietnam in 1970.

Our speaker was a participant in Operation Binh Tay I, the largest U.S. helicopter combat assault of the Vietnam War, in an attack against enemy forces staged on the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Cambodia. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star (V) Medal, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal, and the Vietnam Gallantry Cross.

Mr. Milliken began by describing the organizational structure of the Army recon unit he belonged to, and the difference between his unit and special volunteer recon type units in the Army and other branches of the military. The 4th Infantry Reconnaissance Platoon is a 30-man organization comprised of three working rifle squads and a headquarters squad, each with a specific duty. Normal assignments could

Reconnaissance Platoon 4 Squads

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Rifle Squad (6-8 men)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sergeant Squad Leader - RTO | <p>3. M79 Grenade Launcher Squad (6-8 men)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sergeant Squad Leader - RTO |
| <p>2. M60 Machine Gun Squad (6-8 men)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sergeant Squad Leader - RTO | <p>HQ. Headquarters Squad</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Platoon Leader (Lieutenant) - Platoon Sergeant - RTO - Medic - Scout Dog Handler + Dog - Kit Carson Scout (ex-VC) - Forward Observer |

be: recon, support or reactionary force protection or occasional use to setup an ambush for expected enemy activity. The structure for the Binh

Tay I operation included additional weapons assignments, resulting in the existing squads updated with and in addition

to the standard rifle squad and headquarters. The remaining squads will include: a machine-gun squad and grenade launcher unit, each with 6-8 men.

The headquarters unit included a scout dog and handler. The dog was trained to detect the scent of enemy activity in a patrol area as old as 48 hours. This would alert the patrol to check for additional evidence and prepare for subsequent action as needed. An additional member of the headquarters staff was a former enemy soldier who became a reliable and trusted source in identifying enemy activity. This individual aided in the Binh Tay I operation in the capture of enemy combatants.

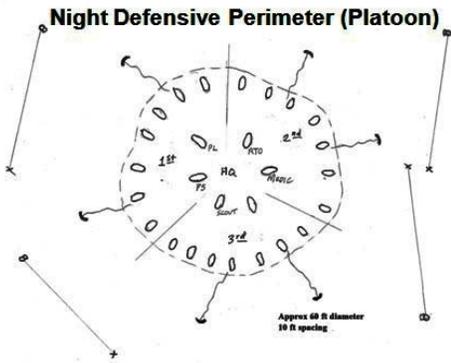
Equipment Infantrymen Carried

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rucksack • 12 Meals C-rations • 3 Bandoliers of M16 ammo = 21 magazines of 20 rounds ea. = 420 rounds • 7 quarts of water • Hand Grenades • Smoke Grenades • Illumination Grenades • Claymore Mine • C4 Plastic Explosive • Gas Mask • Rifle Cleaning Kit • Machete • Poncho • Poncho Liner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional: • 200 rounds M60 machine gun ammo • PRC-25 Radio and spare battery • D-handle shovel • M60 Machine Gun • M79 Grenade Launcher • M72 LAW (Light Anti-tank weapon) |
|--|--|

Members of the platoon were equipped with the M-16, a rifle that had experienced earlier reliability issues, which were corrected by the time of this operation. The machine gun squad was equipped with the M-60 machine gun, which fired a 7.62mm round. The grenade launcher was a hand-held model M-79. The grenadier carried upwards of two dozen grenades to be fired from the shotgun looking launcher. Because it required at least 30 meters in flight for a round once fired to arm, it was not useful in close combat.

Our speaker was the M-60 operator on this operation. Members of the platoon would carry up to 200 rounds each of ammunition linked together. This would be given to the machine gunner's assistant, who would link the additional ammunition to the current link of rounds being fed to the machine gunner in providing a continuous rate of fire should circumstances require such action.

In describing the terrain, our speaker indicated that about 90% of patrol activity was in very dense, triple canopy, jungle with less than 10% in open terrain. Because of the type of terrain encountered, it was critical for all personnel to learn navigation techniques, contour map and compass reading, which was taught during earlier training. Understanding navigation, as well as map reading, was important for relaying coordinates for artillery support or to request airborne weapons support or for extraction.



When describing techniques for unit protection at night, the 'Night Defensive Perimeter' was explained. A 60-foot diameter circle is

created with a rifleman from each of the 3 squads spaced 10 feet apart to create the outer circle. The headquarters squad would be located inside the circle. Additional protection was created by placing claymore mines, an explosive device that contains 700 steel ball bearings with a range of 50 meters and placed to spray at an angle of 60% from its placement. This would be activated electrically against an attacking unit in a concentrated fashion to defend the platoon. Additionally, a series of tripwires, further out, were connected to flares or grenades, which would be activated by enemy personnel if they disturbed the wire when moving towards the platoon.

The platoon spent up to 90% of their time in a month on patrol. When on patrol, each member carried up to 75 pounds of equipment and supplies, which included: 12 meals, over 400 rounds of rifle ammunition, water, grenades, explosives, claymore mine, foul weather gear, rifle cleaning kit and gas mask. Optional equipment may be needed as operations required. This added to the weight carried by each member of the platoon.

The technique used in defending the unit called for firing tracer ammunition. Tracer ammunition will reveal the location of the unit firing their weapons and is normally not the preferred method of responding to enemy fire. However, it was considered a technique to convey to the enemy the presence of a much larger force and could result in an enemy withdrawal.

The C-4 explosive carried by the unit was often times used to remove trees in order to create a clearing and assist helicopter landing activity for resupply, medevac or personnel movement. It was also used to destroy enemy equipment, supplies or shelters. The newer designed hand grenade issued was shaped like a baseball. It was considered easier to throw compared to the earlier pineapple shaped grenade.

After describing general unit activity, our speaker outlined Operation Binh Tay I. This operation, which occurred in May 1970, began in the south of the country and represented the largest helicopter combat assault during Vietnam. This was due to the location and terrain, which made it time-consuming to march to the location. Six battalions, containing 500 troops in each for a total of 3000 personnel, were flown by 120 helicopters over a 3 day period to the mission location in Cambodia.

Cambodia leadership previously was not supportive of the US. With new leadership, friendly to the US and supportive of activity to remove the enemy, May 1970 was considered a suitable time to move against the enemy. When the press reported this new event, protests increased and the well-known Kent State shooting occurred in the US.

Movement of personnel to the target location encountered significant enemy ground fire. Attempts to find suitable landing spots that were considered safe resulted in a clearing being spotted. One helicopter landed and the enemy held fire while troops discharged. A second helicopter landed and as the first troop stepped off, enemy ground fire forced one aircraft to remain on the ground and the second aircraft was brought down and crashed leaving 12 troops on the ground and surrounded by a larger enemy force. A decision was

made to use gunships to suppress enemy fire while other aircraft landed. Limited personnel were able to land, but wounded and killed numbers increased. Eventually a large enough force was brought in and patrols were created to search out for enemy movement. Some prisoners were taken and later questions were answered regarding enemy location.



GPS C.O. Tim Brown thanks Doug Milliken(right) for his very informative briefing.

The final numbers from the operation in the north, US-46 killed, 118 wounded and NVA-212 killed, unknown wounded and 7 POWs taken.

At the conclusion, a few questions were asked. One question was asked about status of the enemy guide since the war ended. Our speaker did not know his location. When asked what the most common question was that came from grade school students, the response was, "What did you do on weekends?" Surprisingly, maps were accurate. Our speaker was wounded, but after a recovery did return to his unit. Close air support was not normally called on since they were a recon platoon. The primary job was to find evidence of enemy activity and then report it to senior command.



CO COLUMN

Tim Brown

Just a short note this month. I really appreciate the continued service of your volunteer staff. When our meetings end and everything is cleaned up and I have time to look

back on the day, I am always so impressed by what a small group of dedicated individuals can accomplish. I am so proud of what they accomplish every month.

Our challenge today is that the staff is aging and we cannot continue to carry the load all by ourselves. We need some more help.

Ray needs somebody to come in early to hang the banners, move the American flag to its proper place on the stage, and put out the table toppers (flags and table numbers). At the end of the meeting he needs someone to take down the banners, gather the table toppers and put them in a transport box. Not that hard, but Ray just can't do it any longer.

Before the meeting starts we need someone to perform the duties of the audio visual specialist; i.e. set up the laptop and projector for the speaker to use. Then at the end of the presentation, box up the laptop and projector to go home with the specialist or me.

Finally, we need a person to be our photographer to take photos of the speaker, the SOQ/SOY, the winner of the 50/50, and anything or anyone else that Hal wants to put in the OpPlan. Since Dick Fields retired our photos have come from Hal, Vince, Dave and me. We use our phones in most cases and they work fine. Once the photos are taken the photographer has to get them to certain of the staff in a real hurry so he/she has to be familiar with sending photos over the Internet.



Gramps' Army Vets, Tim is Army.

The above "job descriptions" are open for volunteers. Please help us all by stepping up to help. We really need it. Thanks and see you on 10 May, the 49th anniversary of my return to the "World"!

The GREAT GUYS

Here are some of the Great Guys who have made contributions to Gramps in April. These guys and the members who attend the monthly luncheons are the ones who make possible Gramps' Sailor of the Quarter program. Gramps and his staff thank them all and hope to see your name here. At the April 12th Gramps Luncheon - some very generous donations came from: David Franzen \$100; Don Pageler \$50; Ed Mason from the Fleet Reserve Association \$250 For Sailors of the Quarter! And from:

**Richard Allen, Jim Angeley, Mike Barr,
Tim Brown, Robert Cashman, Peter Cherbac,
George Del Gaudio, Arnold Ehlers Chuck Jones,
Chris Kretsinger, Ray LeCompte, Rod Losey,
Cindy Macha, David Malmad, Jim McMath,
Michael Neel, Bob Olds. Don Pageler,
Bill Pridemore, Rafi Rahamn, Hammond Salley,
Raymond Seymour, Ted Shown, Bill Thompson,
Vince van den Brink, Larry Woodruff,
Dennis Zager and Steve.**

This list is compiled by Ray LaCompte, GPS Treasurer.



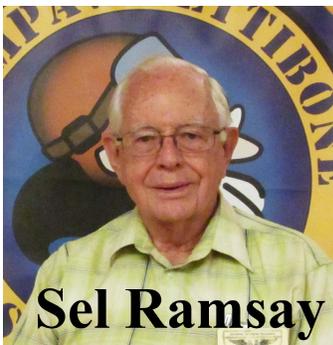
From the CHAPLAIN

Bill Thompson

MEMORIAL DAY

One of the holidays in May is Memorial Day. I remember an interesting poem, and I share the heart of the poem with you. It's about a youngster who was just 14. His dream was to join the military and become a

Marine. Being 14 he could not join up. To remedy the situation, he decided to falsify his birth certificate shortly after he turned 15. That worked, and after finishing his basic training, he was sent off to the war in Vietnam. In June of 1969 he was killed at age 15. Dan Bullock, who wrote the poem, concludes with this: *"He became the youngest soldier to be (KIA) killed in action for his country. I discovered the story about him inadvertently while researching other subjects. Prior to a few days ago, I had never heard of him. Now, I shall not fail to honor him."*



MEMBERSHIP

Sel Ramsay

This month we have two new members to introduce:

We thank our Operations Officer, Cindy Macha, for recruiting new member Rod Losey, whom we welcome to our Grampaw Pettibone

Squadron of the Association of Naval Aviation.

Our second new member is Douglas Milliken, our guest speaker who came to speak and is now one of us!

Welcome Aboard! Sel

OFFICERS OF GRAMPAW PETTIBONE SQUADRON

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