



ANA **GRAMPAW PETTIBONE**
SQUADRON INC.

1 MAY 2015

www.gpsana.org



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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

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THE GPS LUNCHEON MEETING

WILL BE HELD ON

THURSDAY, 14 MAY 2015

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 11 May 2015

COST IS \$15.00. FOR RESERVATIONS

Please E-mail RayLeCompte34@Gmail.com or by Phone: 562-287-4846

About our speaker:

G. PAT MACHA

Author "Aircraft WRECKS of Los Angeles County"

About our speaker's topic:

WRECKFINDER

A century of aviation research and military flights over Los Angeles County has left the San Gabriel Mountains, Mojave Desert and the near-shore Pacific Ocean strewn with more than 1,500 aircraft crash sites.

Barnstormers and test pilots too often made unexpected final landings.

Accidents occurred on a nearly daily basis during World War II training maneuvers. Private planes, a sign of 1950s prosperity, also met tragic ends. These epic incidents include the 1971 tragedy of



Flight 706 in which an airliner collided with a marine fighter jet above Mount Bliss, killing fifty people. Renowned aircraft crash search specialist G. Pat Macha recounts dozens of sorrowful, triumphant and surprisingly true stories of those who lived through these ordeals while offering touching tributes to those who did not. For the past thirty years, Mr. Macha has investigated records of aircraft losses, searched for – and found – wreckage and other evidence of the mishaps, and solved many mysteries that had prevented officials, friends, and loved ones from gaining closure to the loss of aircrews and passengers. Join us to hear intriguing stories of his expeditions, successes, and results that are sometimes surprising, and always rewarding.



AN AIRBOSS PERSPECTIVE LITTORAL COMBAT SHIPS MANNED & UNMANNED AIRCRAFT

Article by Dick Fields GPS PAO

We enjoyed the presentation by LCDR Douglas “Rabbit” Kay this month with more information on the new species of combat vessels, the LCS, which has taken an important place in the Navy’s tactical plans and equipment. The term “Littoral” means close to shore and includes rivers and inlets in any potential combat areas. This is a new approach, with the LCS-3 USS Fort Worth being commissioned in September 2012. This is the ship that LCDR Kay served on as AirBoss. It is the first ship that went on duty as a Surface Warfare Mission Package Deployment with both manned and unmanned helicopters. It has only a 14 foot draft that allows much closer approach to the shore. It has also been referred to as a “fast frigate”.

The manned aircraft were the MH-60R Seahawk helicopter while the unmanned were the MQ-8B Firescout. These two craft were equipped to serve multiple functions and the crews were trained in both. In November of 2014 the Fort Worth was deployed for 16 months in Singapore and served with the hardware remaining in site while the crew traded with identically trained teams to support the mission. The ship is based at NAS North Island and LCDR Kay is with the HSM-35 “Pathfinders”, then first manned and unmanned squadron. Previously he served as “Shooter” (launch & recovery officer) on the USS Vinson. The crew is trained in advance on both the manned and unmanned equipment, including both the pilots as well as the maintenance team.



What we did



- **HSM-35 embarked its first AVDET on board USS Fort Worth (LCS-3) with LCS Crew 104 for the first SUW Mission Package deployment**
- **The SUW mission package consisted of:**
 - Core Crew, 54 personnel
 - SUW mission module, 19 personnel, 2x11M RHIB
 - AVDET, 24 personnel, 1xMH-60R, 1xMQ-8B
- **93 day deployment scheduled for the first rotation. Rotational model is going to be four crews covering four months each for a total 16 month deployment.**
- **Turnover conducted with 35.2 11-17 FEB in Singapore**

Legacy of Excellence

UNCLASSIFIED

This was the first SUW mission and consisted of 54 personnel who were scheduled for a 93 day first deployment with the later plan of four crews covering four months at a time for a total deployment of 16 months. The goals of the operation were the safety of his crew of 24 and communicate well.



UNCLASSIFIED



Officer in Charge Mission

Deploy the first Navy composite detachment on LCS safely

Ten fingers and ten toes

Take care of my Sailors/Officers

Communicate well

Legacy of Excellence

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The entire team consisted of the LCS crew of 54, the SUW (surface warfare) MP Det 5 “Shepherds” that consisted of 19 people, and Rabbit’s HSM-35 crew of 24.



Players



LCS-3 Crew 104 “Juggernauts”

- CO CDR Kendall Bridgewater
- 54 personnel



• **SUW MP Det 5 “Shepherds”**

- OIC LCDR Jason Nelson
- 19 personnel
- 2 x 11M RHIBs
- 2 x 30mm guns

• **HSM-35 Det 1 “Pathfinders”**

- OIC LCDR Doug Kay
- 24 personnel
- 1 x MH-60R
- 1 x MQ-8

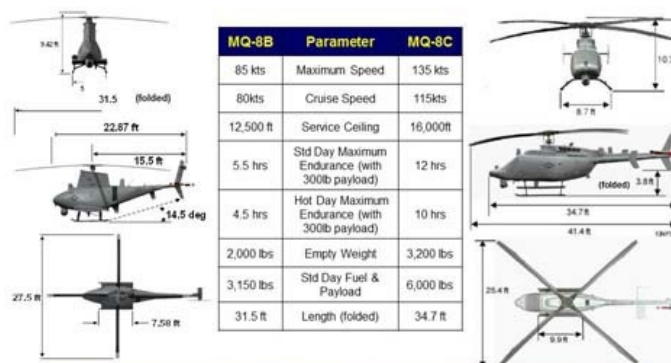


Legacy of Excellence

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The equipment consisted of the MH-60R and the MQ-8B with a new “C” version coming with much greater capability than the “B” model. The accompanying picture shows the entire team with the MH-60 and two MQ-8Bs.

MQ-8 UAV MQ-8B/MQ-8C Comparison



MQ-8C: 3 ft Longer (folded), 1 ft Taller, 2.5 ft Wider & 1200# Heavier than MQ-8B



Article by Dick Fields

Interestingly, the unmanned helicopters cannot be launched from shore and must be launched only from the ship with the exception of NAS Point Mugu. They have the capability of radar and visual monitoring as well as infrared cameras for detecting the enemy and the unmanned ships will soon be armed with rockets. The images are relayed directly to the

ship.

We are grateful to LCDR Kay for his innovative work for our country and for his enlightening presentation to our group.



CO COLUMN

Tim Brown

Our guest speaker, LCDR Doug "Rabbit" Kay, gave us a good rundown of operations at Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron Three Five and his work as OIC of DET ONE aboard USS Fort Worth (LCS-3). This was the first

deployment of a helicopter detachment aboard the new class of ships. From Doug's perspective it went pretty well. See the write up by Dick Fields in this issue of the OpPlan.



Mayor Bao Nguyen(L) joins GPS C.O. Tim Brown® in honoring LCDR Doug Kay(C).

We were also honored to have the Mayor of Garden Grove, Bao Nguyen, in attendance. The Mayor got to visit with our members, the guest speaker and two WWII Aces, Bill Hardy and Fred Dungan along with Joan Dungan, Bob Helton and Bobs Olds, who were also seated at the Speaker's

Table. Mayor Nguyen spoke a few words to the assembled guests and then made a presentation to our speaker on behalf of the City of Garden Grove. See the photos elsewhere in this OpPlan.



Front Row (L-R): Fred Dungan, Joan Dungan and Bill Hardy. Back Row (L-R): Bob Olds, Bao Nguyen, Doc Helton, LCDR Doug "Rabbit" Kay, and Ole Olsen.

This month we will be honoring the Sailors of the Quarter at the Seal Beach Weapons Station. We hope that many of you will attend the ceremony and take the time to meet some top-notch Navy personnel. Come early and take the opportunity to talk to the Sailors, their Chiefs and the Executive Officer at NWSSB, CDR Erik "Reno" Franzen. Please bring guests with you and help in the recruiting effort on behalf of Gramps.

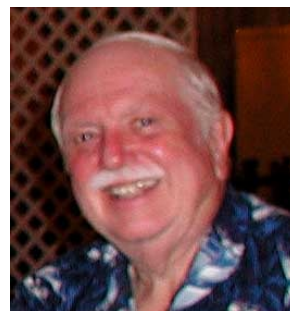
You may have noticed the article (page 41) on Gramps in the latest issue of *Wings of Gold*. Thanks goes to Dick Fields and Hal McDonnell for making sure that materials suitable for publication were provided to the Editor of WOG. Also, thanks to George Del Gaudio for working so hard to make the SOQ Awards Program go smoothly in February. And thank you too, to CDR Franzen who handled much of the production in the absence of the Senior Chief, Jeff Reeder, and Sel Ramsey, both of whom were attending the WEST Conference down in San Diego. And special thanks to Sel who "worked the room" at WEST and came up with a number of contacts who will make excellent speakers for Gramps on later dates.

Hope to see you on the 14th.

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 and the Mailing of the OP-Plan. Gramps and his staff thank them all and hope to see your name here. Gramps hosted 10 Sailors of the Quarter at the February luncheon. That takes a lot of giving by the Good Guys to cover costs.

BOB BELL, TIM BROWN, RAY LECOMPTE, & BOB OLDS



From the

FLIGHT SURGEON

BOB HELTON MD

Tiny hair cells inside your inner ear help you hear. They pick up sound waves and change them into the nerve signals that the brain interprets as sound. Hearing loss occurs when the tiny hair cells are damaged or die. The hair cells do not regrow, so most hearing loss caused by hair cell damage is permanent. There is no known single cause of age-related hearing loss. Most commonly, it is caused by changes in the inner ear that occur as you grow older. Your genes and loud noise may play a large role. The following factors contribute to age-related hearing loss: Family history (age-related hearing loss tends to run in families); Repeated exposure to loud noise; smoking!; diabetes; certain medications. Loss of hearing often occurs slowly over time. Symptoms include: Difficulty hearing people around you; frequently asking people to repeat themselves; frustration at not being

able to hear; certain sounds seem to be overly loud; problems hearing in noisy areas; problems telling apart certain sounds such as "s" or "th" ; more difficulty understanding people with higher-pitched voices; ringing in the ears. There is no cure for age-related hearing loss. Treatment is focused on improving every-day function. These may help: Hearing aids; Telephone amplifiers; sign language for those with severe hearing loss; speech reading such as lip reading and using visual cues to aid communication; a cochlear implant may be recommended for persons with severe hearing loss, done surgically- the implant allows the person to detect sounds again and with practice can allow the person to understand speech. But it does not restore normal hearing. Contact your doctor right away if you have a sudden change in your hearing or hearing loss with other symptoms such as headache, vision changes, or dizziness.



From the

CHAPLAIN

Blii Thompson

I can remember...that the last Monday in May (May 25) is Memorial Day. Some will remember that the third Saturday in May is Armed Forces Day. Add to your list to remember that Congress has passed a resolution that the nation observes May as a NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH. “...all people

of the U. S., localities, organizations and media are called upon to annually observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.” The culmination of the month, indeed, is Memorial Day, which traditionally has marked the recognition of those who have died in service to the nation. Also, on Memorial Day, remember to observe one minute of silence at 3 p.m. local time “to honor the military’s fallen comrades and to pay tribute to the sacrifices by the nation’s service members and veterans.” Don't forget!!

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