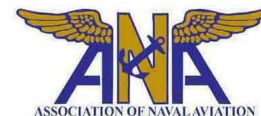




ANA **GRAMPAW PETTIBONE**
SQUADRON INC.

1 MARCH 2015

www.gpsana.org



Editor Hal McDonnel

C.O. **Tim Brown** - timb53@hotmail.com

X.O. **Bob Anctil** - md11sim@adelphia.net

OPS

Asst, OPS **George Del Gaudio** - georgenavybuff@aol.com

Membership **Fran Pieri** - graeagle@cox.net

Asst. Membership **Sel Ramsay** - ramsayengineerco@cs.com

Treasurer **Dolores Hardy** - 562-936-0287

Asst, Treasurer **Carol Fields** - t6pilot@dslextreme.com

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

PAO **Dick Fields** - t6pilot@dslextreme.com

Admin. **Hal McDonnel** - hmcddonnelz@yahoo.com

Flt. Surgeon **Dr Bob Helton** - bobby726921@gmail.com

Chaplain **Bill Thompson** - chapbillt@aol.com

Trips Officer **Vincent van den Brink** - vincentvdb1@yahoo.com

OP-Plan Editor **Hal McDonnel** - hmcddonnelz@yahoo.com

Web Editor **Ray LeCompte** - raylecompte34@gmail.com

THE GPS LUNCHEON MEETING

WILL BE HELD ON

THURSDAY, 12 MARCH 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 9 MARCH 2015

COST IS \$15.00. FOR RESERVATIONS

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



About our speaker's topic:

COAST GUARD AVIATION

About our speaker:

CAPTAIN JONATHAN S. SPANER
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGING POLICY
U.S. COAST GUARD

Captain Spaner is director of the Coast Guard's office of emerging policy in Washington, DC. He is responsible for development of strategy on major issues including the Arctic, Western Hemisphere affairs, cyber security, and climate change. Moreover, on behalf of the U.S. Department of State, Captain Spaner is Head of the U.S. Delegation to the Arctic Council's Task Force on a Circumpolar Business Forum.

Previously, he served as Commanding Officer of Air Station Traverse City, Michigan with responsibility for HH-65C helicopter operations in the Great Lakes and Caribbean regions. Captain Spaner has held

senior pilot ratings in the C-130 and HH-60 aircraft during tours in California, Florida, and Oregon. He also served as Strategic Policy Advisor to the Four-Star General commanding war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as director of port and cargo security on the White House Staff. Captain Spaner holds an MBA from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), a B.S. *cum laude* from the United States Merchant Marine Academy where he was the Regimental Commander, and is a distinguished graduate from U.S. Navy Pilot Training. He holds the "Key to the City" from Traverse City, Michigan for citizenship, is a former fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, and is a former White House Fellow.

About our February luncheonr:



Gramps' C.O. Tim Brown(center) thanks ABHC Luke W. Willdigs (left) and ABHC Shawn -Patrick Bland(right) for a very informative presentation on the Navy's new Littoral ships and operations.

NAVY LCS MISSIONS & CAPABILITIES

Author: Dick Fields PAO

Gramps was very much enlightened by the presentation of not one but two Navy specialists in the field of Littoral Combat Ships (LCS). Chiefs Shawn-Patrick Bland and Luke W. Willdigg told us about this relatively new era of ships and their missions and how the crews were handled. The first statement was that they were not intended to take over the conventional Navy, rather to augment its capability in three particular fields: Surface, Mine and Anti-Submarine warfare. Their purpose is to fill in gaps in the present system with their smaller size, speed and maneuverability and their ability to operate in small areas such as rivers. The term "Littoral" means close to shore. These vessels are based in San Diego and at the Mayport Naval station in Jacksonville Florida.

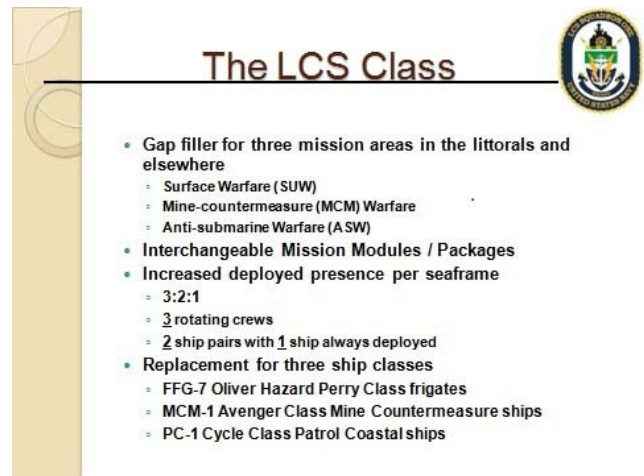


There are currently four ships with eight under construction. Each has a crew of 40-50 crewmen. There are currently 12 crews for the four operational ships at this time. They are deployed in two ship pairs with one ship of each pair at sea at all times. These crews receive complete training on shore before going to sea. The plans are for 20 ships with 30 crews operational by 2018. The group will consist of 12 LCS-2's, 4 LCS-



1's, and 4 other LCS's.

The LCS-2 uses a turbo-thrust propellant system that utilizes water jets for thrust and steering. This makes them extremely fast and vastly more maneuverable than the propeller equipped ships. The system is composed of four jets, all steerable, 2 jet engines and 2-20 cylinder diesels. They are capable of speeds in the 40+ knot range and can operate close to shore at high speeds. They can carry the MH60R helicopter that is the state of the art antisubmarine weapon. It also has a 30 mm gun. The "Independence" has 3 helicopter pads and a 57 mm gun. It also can carry the MQ8 Fire Scout unmanned helicopter. It is a trimaran with three hulls. The "Freedom" is constructed entirely of aluminum so that it does not need painting. Others have a steel hull and an aluminum superstructure. They draw about ten feet of water. The cost of 10 LCS ships is the same as a single destroyer!



These ships were designed for special duty and not for head-to-head combat with enemy conventional naval vessels. We are grateful to our two Chiefs for the enlightening presentation and all the new information.



GRAMPS HONORS NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SAILORS OF THE YEAR AND QUARTER



The Sailors - Left to right: MA1 (SW) Christopher Noeth - SOY, MA1 (SW) Michael McGuire - SSOQ, MA2 Jose Vazquez - JSOQ, MN1 (SW) Jeremy Frick - SOY, YN1 (SW/AW) Donny Piper - SSOQ, MN2 (SW) Tyler Schwartzbarra - (SOQ), EN1(SW/EXW) Michael Ramil - SOQ, YN2 Pacer Sexton - JSOQ, PS1 (EXW/SW/AW) Edgardo C. Agbay -FTS SOQ, OSC (EXW/SW) Alicia Estrada & Asst.OPS George Del Gaudio.

Recently, the Grampaw Pettibone Squadron was pleased to honor the Sailors of the Quarter and Sailors of the Year from Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach. Because of the unique nature of NWSSB, we had eight SOQs present and two SOYs. We were also honored to have some of the wives of the sailors present along with the Senior Chief of NMC. The Executive Officer of NWSSB, CDR Erik Franzen, assisted in the presentation of awards to the sailors. The task could not have been accomplished without his participation. GPS would also like to acknowledge and to thank The Crab Cooker in Tustin, O'Malley's on Main, Hennessey's Tavern, Beachwood BBQ, Yucatan Grill and Athens West for contributing gift certificates for the honorees. Special thanks to USAA and Eric Page for the special gifts to all of the SOQs and SOYs. And, finally, thank you to H&R Block, Long Beach District, for the gifts for the Sailors of the Year.



Sailor of the Quarter Tyler Schwartzbarra and wife Elizabeth.



Sailor of the Year Jeremy Frick and wife Trisha

The GREAT GUYS

Here are some of the Great Guys who have made contributions to Gramps in February. 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, Denny Bowen,
Vince van den Brink, Tim Brown,
Ray LeCompte, and Bob Olds**



CO'S COLUMN

Thanks to all who were involved in the Sailor of the Quarter/Sailor of the Year Awards Program at our last luncheon. I thought that it went off extremely well thanks to the participation of CDR Erik Franzen and George Del Gaudio. Hopefully those in attendance appreciated the efforts and accomplishments of the Sailors. The

briefing on the Littoral Combat Ship was excellent and it was made even more appropriate when one of the briefers, ABHC (AW/SW) Shawn-Patrick Bland volunteered that he was at one time Senior Sailor of the Year for LHD8, PHIBRON 5, ESG 3, Third Fleet, SURFOR, and a finalist for PACFLT. That made it even more personal to the Sailors present. ABHC (AW/SW) Luke Willdigg was the lead presenter and he was very professional and knowledgeable. It was a great team presentation.

We need our current members to start recruiting new members. If nothing else, bring your friends or relatives, or even, a mere acquaintance to our luncheon and let them see what a great group of people we are and that we have awesome programs on a regular basis. Just to give you some marketing pointers: this month we have Captain Jon Spaner, USCG, who will brief us on flight operations of the Coast Guard in the Southern California area; in April we will have CDR Chad Falgout, USN, C.O. of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron Three Five (HSM-35), the Navy's first composite squadron with the MH-60R designator Seahawk and MQ-8B/C designator Fire Scout (unmanned rotary-wing aircraft) for expeditionary missions; in May, as a change of pace, we will have photographer/author Mike Malak talk to us about his new book entitled "Wings of Angels" (look it up on the Internet); and then in June, Colonel Mike Naylor, USMC (Ret) will take us down memory lane with his stories about his duties as Presidential Helicopter Commander/MV-22 Operational Test Director and as Deputy Commander, Marine Corps Installations West, and any other things that comes to mind. Those programs should present enough diversity to excite some of your friends and to convince them to attend one of our luncheons.

Ray LeCompte and I attended a couple of functions over the last two weekends where we spread the news about Grampaw Pettibone Squadron. On Saturday, February 21, we attended the 95th birthday celebration for LtCol Bob Friend, USAF (Ret) who spoke at one of our luncheons last year. As you may recall, Bob is a former Tuskegee Airman and went on to a long and illustrious career in the Air Force. On Saturday, February 28, we were at NAF El Centro where we watched a couple of practice sessions put on by the Blue Angels. We also enjoyed a great steak dinner provided by the Imperial Valley Council of the US Navy League the night before and visited with some old friends in that area. Coincidentally, LT Matt Suyderhoud, Blue Angel #2 (Right Wing) graduated from the same high school that I attended in Honolulu Hawaii... a few years after me! If it works out, a photo the two of us will appear in this issue of the OpPlan.

A reminder: we need more volunteers to take a leadership role in Gramps (many of us have been on the staff for more than 10 years) and we need new blood, and relief. Give us a hand and sign up new members for the

Association of Naval Aviation and get them to attend our luncheons

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Bill Thompson



DID YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT HE SAID? ARE YOU SURE?

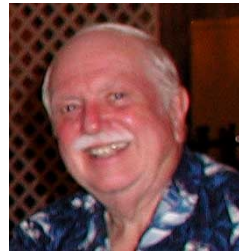
A census taker stopped at the door of a woman who had six children. He asked her how many children she had. She began to name each of her children. The census taker interrupted her and explained that he only needed the numbers.

The insulted lady responded angrily. "I love each and every one of my children; they each have NAMES and I have never considered giving them NUMBERS!" She then slammed the door shut.

Have you ever slammed the door, or cut off a relationship, because someone insulted you or made you angry? Did you really understand what he said? Are you sure?

FROM THE FLIGHT SURGEON

Bob Helton MD



Remembering stroke:

The symptoms of stroke are: Sudden numbness or weakness of face, arm, or leg- especially on one side of the body, sudden confusion or trouble speaking or understanding, sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes, sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination, sudden, severe headache with no known cause. Bystanders should know the the signs and act in time. Because stroke injures the brain, one is not able to perceive one's own problems. If you believe someone is having a stroke, if they lose the ability to speak, or move an arm or leg on one side or experience facial paralysis on one side- call 911 immediately! Stroke is a medical emergency; immediate treatment may save a life and improve his or her chances at recovery and rehabilitation. To reduce your risk of stroke, monitor your blood pressure, track your cholesterol level, stop smoking, exercise regularly- even 20 minutes twice a week- and ask your doctor if you should be taking aspirin to reduce clotting.



H&R Block manager David Tran presents certificates for free tax preparation to SOY Christopher Noeth(L) and SOY Jereny Frick.