



ANA **GRAMPAW PETTIBONE**
SQUADRON INC.

1 AUGUST 2017

www.gpsana.org



Editor Hal McDonnell

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 AUGUST 2017

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 August 2017

COST IS \$15.00. FOR RESERVATIONS Please E-mail

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



About our speaker's topic:

AMMO FOR THE FLEET

STATUS REPORT

SEAL BEACH NAVAL WEAPONS STATION

About our speaker:

CAPTAIN NOEL J. DAHLKE USN **COMMANDING OFFICER**

From San Diego, CA, CAPT Noel J. Dahlke graduated in 1994 from San Diego State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and was commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy through the NROTC program. In May 1996 LTJG Dahlke earned his wings as a Naval Flight Officer (NFO) and reported to the S-3B Viking Fleet Replacement Squadron, VS-41 "Shamrocks," in San Diego, Calif. for initial training

From 1997-2000, he was assigned to VS-21 "Redtails" embarked on USS Independence (CV 62) and USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) as part of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) FIVE based out of Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan. There he served as the NFO Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization (NATOPS) Officer and qualified as a Level IV Mission Commander. In June 2000, he rejoined VS-41 as an instructor, fleet NATOPS evaluator and curriculum model manager.

In 2002, LT Dahlke served on the flag staff of Commander Carrier Strike Group SEVEN as the Strike Ops Officer, deploying aboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74). He then attended the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, Calif. and graduated in June 2005. From 2005 to 2008, LCDR Dahlke completed his Department Head tour with VS-31 "Topcats." He deployed once again aboard USS John C. Stennis with CVW NINE, where he qualified as a Command Duty Officer Underway and as

a CVW NINE Maritime Strike Lead. He has over 600 carrier arrested landings in S-3B Vikings.

For his joint assignment, he reported to the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS), Honolulu, HI in February 2008 where he served as Operations/Action Officer for the Transnational Security curriculum. While assigned to APCSS, he screened for operational command.

He commanded Patrol Squadron (VP) 26 “Tridents” from May 2011-May 2012 and during this time he deployed once again to the 5th Fleet AOR supporting Operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom as CTG 57.1/57.2. During this tour, the Tridents were awarded readiness and retention awards to include the Battle E. He has logged over 3,100 flight hours in P-3C and S-3B model aircraft.

For his post command tour, he reported to Naval Mine and ASW Command in San Diego, Calif. as the Director for Undersea Warfare Exercise Development and OPFOR and Air ASW trainer/assessor. His most recent tour was as Deputy Commander, Navy Region Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia, located at Naval Support Activity Bahrain.

CAPT Dahlke’s awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Meritorious Service Medal (2), Navy Commendation Medal (2), Navy Achievement Medal (3) and various theater deployment service medals, ribbons and leadership awards, including the Commander, Naval Air Force Senior Leadership Award – 2007 and S-3B NFO of the Year – 2007. He holds a MBA from Naval Postgraduate School Monterey, CA with a Financial Management subspecialty. He also earned his Joint Professional Military Education Phase I and is a graduate of the APCSS Advanced Security Cooperation Course with an East Asia subspecialty.

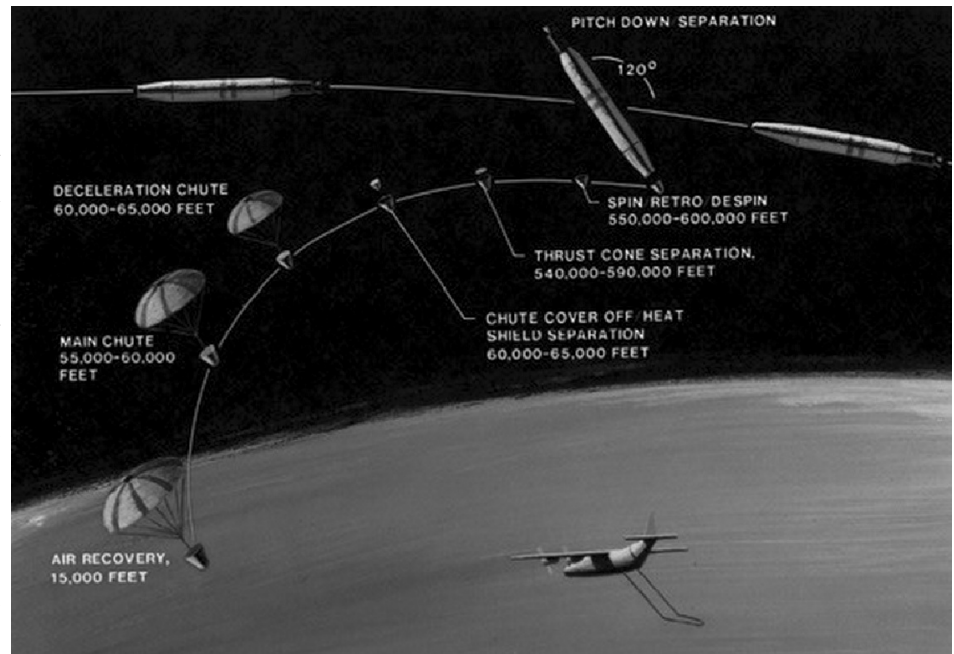


Col L. Mills

EYES IN THE SKY

By Robert L. Cashman

The Grandpa Pettibone Squadron was given a peek into one of the top secret spy gadgets developed during the Cold War. Lieutenant Colonel Leroy Mills (USAF Ret.) told us about his work in developing a satellite spy camera system. The system was so sophisticated that it’s amazing that it could work at all; and, in reality, it worked very well! The concept first developed in 1966 and went through continuous development until 1984 when even more exotic things were developed to replace it. The system’s code word “Gambit” was a rocket



launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base. It flew over areas that they wanted to look at and took thousands of pictures on rolls of film 9 ½ inches wide and as much as 60 miles long! The film was half the thickness of a sheet of paper. The camera, very much like the Hubbell telescope, could see things on the ground as little as two feet square in great detail. The film would then be put into a container and dropped with a parachute to float back to earth. The Air Force would then intercept the parachute in mid air. An Air Force C-130 with a special hook would be waiting for it to drift down and snag it. Every aspect of this project: the launching, the camera system, the guidance, adjusting the exposure to the film, then dropping it out and having a plane catch it is really in the science fiction category, but it really happened. In fact, it happened dozens of times.

One of the cameras is on display at the National Air and Space Museum at Dulles Airport. It is gigantic! It’s as big as a school bus. It is more than 50 feet long and weighs 25,000 to 30,000 pounds. This project was super secret until 2011, 25 years after the last Cold War mission. The coordination and required secrecy to put dozens of secret projects that made up the “Gambit” vehicle is amazing. From the Lockheed Agina Rocket that launched it to the optical camera developed years before the Hubbell telescope to the special super high, super thin roll film developed by Kodak to the various control systems to make it all work remotely from the ground and then drop the film and actually catch it would make a cliff hangar Star Wars movie. It had to take several thousand engineers, scientists and other specialists—all working secretly—to put this together.

I have personally talked to one of the pilots that flew the C-130 to catch the film package. He said he did seven or eight catches. The parachute with the film always showed up at the time and place where he was told it would. This in itself is remarkable, and the pilot’s skill in catching it is equally remarkable!

The system was obviously very successful as the Air Force continued improving it with later models. Lieutenant Colonel Mills was hands-on in Star War level projects during most of his military service working with various special secret projects. It is a real honor to have him as our guest.



C.O. COLUMN

Tim Brown

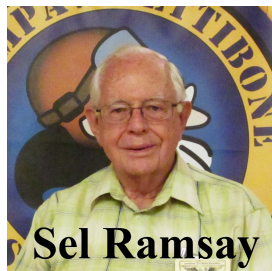
This month we are honoring the Sailors of the Quarter from NWSSB and NMC. There will be award recognition for Blue Jacket of the Quarter, Junior SOQ and Senior SOQ. Please join us at lunch to recognize these outstanding sailors. Our speaker will be the Commanding Officer of NWSSB, CAPT Noel "Tink" Dahlke, USN. The description of Captain Dahlke's brief is presented elsewhere in the OpPlan.

Gram paw Pettibone Squadron publically recognizes the SOQs at our luncheons. We try to make it a memorable and rewarding experience for the sailors and their guests. On many occasions we have had family members as guests at our meetings. This allows, you, our members, to interact with active duty personnel. It also allows you to determine for yourself how well the U.S. Navy is doing and judge the quality of the men and women who are serving today. For me, each of these meetings reminds me of how lucky we are to have these sailors protecting and serving.



The award program does not just happen by itself. It takes time to arrange for the program, obtain the gift certificates and get the SOQs signed up for a free one-year membership in ANA, AUSN or USNI. Currently there are two members who do the behind-the-scenes work to create and execute the program: COL Bill Thompson, USA (Ret), and CAPT Sel Ramsay, USN (Ret). Before I describe their duties let me just say that they can always use help. *If you live or work in or around Seal Beach and you have a favorite restaurant, coordinate with Bill and maybe you can pick up the certificates.*

The gift certificates are given by local restaurants as a show of appreciation. Your Chaplain, COL Bill Thompson, goes to each restaurant and asks for the certificates and sorts through them to make appropriate awards evenly amongst the honorees. He also coordinates with the senior enlisted personnel at NWSSB and NMC to get the names of the SOQs so that we can also give them a Recognition Certificate from GPS. In addition to restaurants in SB, The



Crab Cooker Restaurant (Tustin) provides gift certificates thanks to Jim Wasko a longtime member whose offspring are also Navy. USAA has been a supporter for many years too, giving plaques and commemorative coins in recognition of the superior performances of the SOQs. Thanks Bill for a great job and maybe you will get some help soon.

Sel Ramsay is your Membership Officer. He has one tough job... how to grow our membership. He continues to rack his brain, ask questions and work with other organizations to get our numbers up. It is a difficult time for all volunteer organizations, whether it is ANA, VFW, American Legion, or Tailhook. Younger folks just don't seem to want to join. That is where you come into the picture. Start asking your friends and/or relatives whether they want to attend one of our luncheons. Once they try, they might want to join. Joining ANA only costs \$40 a year, or you can go for the Life Membership. Either way, we need new members and we need to have people at our luncheons. Please give Sel a hand and work on your friends. You like the comradery, so might they! And Sel, thank you for a difficult job well done.

See you all on 10 August.

WHO IS THAT?

By Tim Brown

Do you ever wonder who is taking your money when you pay for lunch at the Elk's Lodge? I remember paying Andy Andresen, then Dolores Hardy took over for Andy. That was a while ago. A few years ago, Carol Fields started helping Dolores and then, when Dolores retired as Treasurer, Carol took over at the table with some help from our new Treasurer, Ray LeCompte. Also stepping up, Chris Kretsinger, the surviving spouse of our former Commanding Officer, Bud Kretsinger answered our urgent call for a volunteer.



Chris is a retired school teacher and she likes to meet and greet all of our members. She has regularly attended our meetings for more than 10 years. Because of Bud's status as a former CO, Chris knows most of the old timers, and is fast getting to know the newer members. She is very hospitable and welcoming which are great attributes for the person who greets you on behalf of Gramps.

Luckily, Carol is still around to help if called upon, which makes her an invaluable member of our organization.

Please take the time to introduce yourself to Chris while you are paying for lunch and signing Ray's sign-in sheet. She is a wonderful person and a super volunteer. I want to again thank you Carol, Chris and Ray for doing such a great job on behalf of Gramps.

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MEMBERSHIP

By Sel Ramsay

I shook the hand that shook the hand of Geronimo. And I shook the hand that shook the hand of Adolph Hitler. Here's how:

Margie Cate Green was born in October 1896, and was a young girl when Geronimo came to her school to visit. Margie was 109 when Beverly O'Neil, the then Mayor of Long Beach, MC'ed a luncheon honoring Margie's life as an actress and retiree of the city's Police force as the oldest person in the CALPERS retirement system. I was there. And!

Louie Zamparini had just won a race in the 1936 Olympics when Adolph Hitler requested Louie to come to Hitler's booth to meet him. When Louie came to speak to our Grampaw Pettibone luncheon about his World War II ordeal of B-24 crash in the Pacific and days in a life raft, capture by the Japanese and near execution in prison camp, he shared intimate details of his life experience. That's how I shook their hands.

We used to have over a 100 attendees at our lunch programs. They met and some shook hand with outstanding people. The last few months we had about 50 to 60.

We ask good people to come speak to us, to share their news and views, and learn from them. They are often very happy to do this. But it does take an appreciative audience, and our membership of listeners is getting smaller. Our access to military people and veterans to invite is also smaller. So, look around you for your friends, co-workers, or, as I do, perfect strangers and tell them about the interesting meetings we have and invite them to come and join with us. And tell them the food is good, too!

SOMETHING NEW

We are starting a new lending library of interesting books. Take one home, read it, bring it back next month, take another, etc. (This will be a small effort because someone has to carry all the books to the meeting every month.)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY ON AUGUST 4 TO THE COAST GUARD.

By Chjaplain Bill Thmpson

On special days when we would sing the Service Songs in our congregation at the Joint Forces Training Base, there was always only one person, (her husband had been in the Coast Guard) who stood up for the Coast Guard song. Since the mission of the Coast Guard included the rescue of persons in distress, we would sometimes try to sing a hymn that would blend in with that mission.

Remember: "Rescue the perishing, care for the dying, Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave; Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen, Tell them of Jesus the mighty to save. Rescue the perishing, care for the dying; Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save." Also, the one in distress might sing "Pass me not, O gentle Savior, Hear my humble cry; While on others thou are smiling. Do not pass me by." Or another verse of another hymn that could remind us of the Coast Guard was: "Brightly beams our Father's mercy From his lighthouse evermore; But to us he gives the keeping Of the lights along the shore. Let the lower lights be burning!



Send a gleam across the wave! Some poor fainting, struggling seaman You may rescue, you may save." You may think of other hymns that will suggest to you some similarities between the mission of the Coast Guard and your religious faith as you understand it. "Semper Paratus"

THE GREAT GUYS

Here are some of the Great Guys who have made contributions to Gramps in July. 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.

**VINCENT van den BRINK, TIM BROWN,
BOB CASHMAN, LORRAINE DANANO,
RAY LECOMPTE, CINDY MACHA,
JAMES MCMATH, BOB OLDS,
and CALVIN POISSOT**