



ANA **GRAMPAW PETTIBONE**
SQUADRON INC.

1 SEPTEMBER 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, 14 SEPTEMBER 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 11 September 2017

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

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

About our speaker's topic:



BUILDING VICTORY

THE INDUSTRIAL PROWESS THAT WON THE WAR

About our speaker:

DANA T. PARKER

AUTHOR OF BUILDING VICTORY

“Just start building” was the direction given to the president of Boeing. In the days following Pearl Harbor, American Industry was told to do whatever they did best, and the American and Allied military leadership would figure out how to use the output to best advantage. American ingenuity was the engine that would meet the advancing wall of world despotism, and American ingenuity had what

it took to defeat the threat. Southern California housed some of the most productive manifestations of this ingenuity. Although they couldn't know it at the time, the self-appointed dictators of the world were about to meet the awesome power of free enterprise, and the meeting would not be a happy one for the dictators. The unprecedented phenomenon of American technological and industrial prowess was about to teach a lasting lesson to would-be despots around the world. This lesson is chronicled in **BUILDING VICTORY**, a new book by Dana T. Parker, in which he describes the dizzying pace at which American industry, particularly that segment located in the Los Angeles area, answered the call for the defeat of despotism. It is an exciting and inspirational story



. Join us, to hear the author of this fascinating account regale us with the almost magical story of the industry that saved the civilized world from the yoke of dictatorship.

Dana is a functional manager for a major containership company operating in the port of Los Angeles. He is a multi-talented individual who portrays historic figures, most notably James Madison, and who demonstrates practical skills from America's Colonial and Post-Colonial past.

About our September luncheon:



THE BIG PICTURE AMMO

FOR THE NAVY

Article by Bob Cashman

On August 8, 2017, the Grampaw Pettibone Squadron was pleased to have as its guest speaker Captain Noel J. Dahlke, Commander of the Naval Weapon Station Seal Beach. Captain Dahlke gave us an overview of the assignment and capabilities of supporting our Navy operations in the Pacific. Currently, the Navy is operating 79 ships at sea in the Pacific Ocean and the Naval Weapon Station Seal Beach, supplies all of these ships with ammunition. Ammunition consists of everything from hand gun bullets, artillery shells, bombs, torpedoes, mines and several kinds of missiles. All of these weapons must be maintained in combat ready condition. Every time a ship comes into port these weapons are unloaded at the facility and checked and/or updated to be sure that they are combat ready. Many of the new modern weapons, missiles and torpedoes have extensive computer systems which must be checked and sometimes re-programmed. Some missiles are carried by aircraft which may have a variety of electronic systems that include radar and heat seeking. Other missiles fired from ships may travel hundreds of miles targeted to a specific target as small as a vehicle. Many of these missiles require as much as four days for a crew to give them a complete check-up. These weapons are truly amazing!

The base employs 205 Navy personnel, plus 520 civilian employees, and about 800 reserve personnel train at the base regularly. The base is huge: over 5,000 acres with 80 miles of roads in the base with almost one million square feet of storage area for munitions. It's larger than many cities in Orange County. There are only two weapons stations on the West Coast. The other one is in the Seattle area, a thousand miles north of here.

The base is environmentally friendly. It maintains a 1,000 acre wild life preserve, the only wild life preserve in the Los

NAVY MUNITIONS COMMAND PACIFIC, CWD
Unit Seal Beach Mission Details

SHIPS VISIT US:

- Before and after deployment
- When entering / leaving shipyard

WE LOAD:

- Missiles
- Torpedoes
- Countermeasures
- Gun ammo (from 9mm To 5-inch)

WE MAINTAIN:

- Standard, ESSM, Tomahawk Missiles
- Lightweight Torpedoes
- Exercise Mines

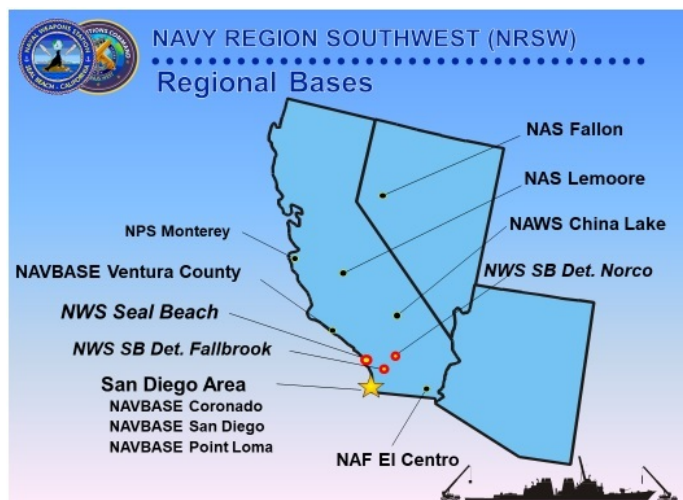
Average Value of Weapons Stored: \$1.8 Billion
Average Number of Ships Serviced Per Year: 40

Angeles basin. Several endangered species make their home in this refuge. The base leases out land between its bunkers for agricultural use. It is one of the largest urban farming operations in Orange County.

The base loads and unloads at its own wharf for loading and unloading small Navy vessels, and there is a mooring about three miles off shore for loading and unloading large ships. The base is currently handling about 40 ships per year, or almost one a week.

The base is planning significant improvements that run from rebuilding its 50 to 70 year old buildings, building additional storage, improvements in its waterfront facilities including enlarging its wharf and routing traffic more efficiently. This is good news for our local economy to have the Navy plan to keep its presence here well into the future! Most of us can recall the large facilities at El Toro and Long Beach which no longer exist.

The base contributes about \$140,000,000 to our local economy. We are truly fortunate to have such a well managed community-minded government facility in our neighborhood. We were very pleased to have Captain Dahlke give us an overview of this important facility.



SAILORS OF THE QUARTER



First row MA1 Chance Beckford, MASA Elannie Hernandez, LS2(SW) Second row Chaplain Bill Thompson, MAC Jay Knox, NMC Luis Flores, CMDCM Kirby Lee, CDR John Quillinan, CAPT Sel Ramsay USN (Ret), CAPT Noel Dahlke

SAILORS OF THE QUARTER

By Bill Thompson

It was like a serendipity for members of Grampaw Pettibone Squadron when they met last week. Not only were the Sailors of the Quarter from the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station present but also the Commanding Officer of the Base, CAPTAIN Noel J. Dahlke USN was present. The sailors were with us to be honored for their accomplishments during the last quarter, and CAPTAIN Dahlke was there to be our guest speaker for the day. The sailors were honored with gifts from Grampaw Pettibone Squadron, gift certificates from restaurants in the area, and award plaques from USAA (insurance company).

The Naval Weapons Station selected Senior Sailor of the Quarter—MA1 Chance Beckford (from Pasadena); Junior Sailor of the Quarter—MA2 Devyn Lowers (not present because of duty conflict); and Bluejacket of the Quarter—MASA Elannie Hernandez (from Chicago). The Navy Munitions Command CONUS West Division Seal Beach (all under the command of CAPTAIN Dahlke) selected Senior Sailor of the Quarter—MN1(SW/EXW) Garrett J. Schilz (not present because of duty conflict); Junior Sailor of the Quarter—LS2(SW) Gilberto Moreno, Jr. (from Hayword, CA).

Contributing gift certificates for the honored sailors were: on Main Street, Seal Beach: Avila's El Ranchito Mexican Restaurant, Bistro St. Germain, Hennessey's Tavern, and O'Malley's On Main. Also, on Pacific Coast Highway, Seal Beach: Finbar's Italian Restaurant, Glory Days Grill, and Yucatan. Also, on Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach—MIMI'S. Also, on Newport Blvd, Newport Beach—Crabcooker. We appreciate their effort to honor these special sailors in a special way.

CAPTAIN Dahlke's topic for us was "Ammo for the Fleet". He discussed not only the work being done locally to load and unload ammo in Seal Beach but also the huge numbers of ammo facilities up and down the west coast. Most all of this support for practically all of our Pacific Fleet comes under the responsibility of our Seal Beach Weapons Station. He also discussed much that is being done to preserve the natural habitat to be found within the

boundaries of the base. The need for the expansion of the docks at the base was part of his discussion.

Another privilege we had was meeting the new (about two weeks) Executive Office who arrived about two weeks ago at the base. He is COMMANDER John Quillinan, and he and his family are still in the process of unpacking boxes.



L to R: CDR John Quillinan, XO NWSSB; CAPT Bob Olds USN (Ret); CAPT Noel J. Dahlke, Commanding Officer NWSSB; Cynthia Macha, GPS OPS.



L to R: Sel Ramsay, MA1 Chance Beckford, CPO Jay Knox, MASA Elannie Hernandez, CPO Luis Flores LS2 Gilberto Moreno, Bill Thompson

The GREAT GUYS

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

Richard Allen
Vincent van den Brink
Tim Brown
Bob Helton
Chris Kretsinger
Ray LeCompte
Cindy Macha
Bob Olds



GPS FINANCIAL MATTERS

From the
C.O.
Tim Brown

It is time to discuss financial matters with the membership of GPS.

As you know, GPS does not charge a membership fee to participate in our activities. To fund our activities such as printing and mailing the OpPlan, maintaining our website, supporting the SOQ awards program, and paying the cost of emailing the OpPlan, we rely on contributions from our members ("Great Guys") and a slight mark up on the cost of lunches. Over the years we have been slowly but surely eating away at the balance in our checking account that once stood at around \$20,000 when we had well over 100 members and guests attending our meetings and we held the meetings at the local military clubs. That ended when MCAS El Toro was closed and we started looking for a new "home".

We finally found a great venue at the Garden Grove Elks Lodge. For many years we have enjoyed a great relationship with both the members and management there. They have been very gracious and accommodating to our needs. The cost per meal has not changed for many years despite our dwindling attendance and the ever present increased cost of food and labor. Having said that, the Elks Lodge has only recently raised the price per meal. Another expense that has increased is the cost of printing and mailing the OpPlan. Even though the number of copies mailed has diminished with our membership, the cost per item mailed has grown to about \$10 per year, including envelopes, paper, ink, and postage.

Another thing that has changed over time has been the extent of our participation in the Sailor of the Quarter awards program. Many years ago we worked with the *USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63)* and its crew but that relationship ended when it was forward deployed to Japan. At that time we switched over to NWSSB. For many years we honored only two SOQs per quarter, junior and senior. Over time we have expanded the program to include Bluejacket, Junior SOQ, and Senior SOQ for both NWSSB and NMC. We also honor the Sailor of the Year for the combined command. Our costs for the program include lunches for the SOQs, their guests and some of the staff at NWSSB and NMC. We also give each SOQ a small financial award.

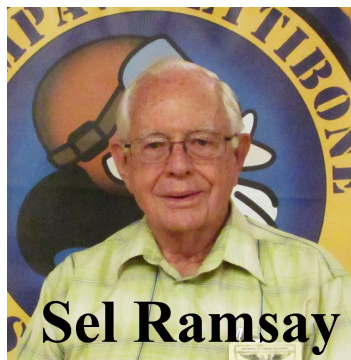
Now that I have given you the background, this is what I need from you. The staff has met and conferred regarding our finances and has come up with some possible solutions. Now we need your input. Read the following proposals. If you are a current member of the Association of Naval

Aviation, Grampaw Pettibone Squadron, vote on each of the proposals. Either yes or no. Do not give us alternatives to the proposals. You can call me at (562) 547-0780 and leave a message if I do not answer, send an email to me at timb53@hotmail.com, or mail your response to me at Tim Brown, 5061 Marion Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630. I must have your response before 1700 on 30 September 2017. No response will be considered a "yes" vote on each proposal. Please vote yes or no on the following proposals:

1. Any member who wants a hard copy (printed) mailed to them will pay \$10 per year prior to December 1st of every year. No pay, no USPS delivery. The \$10 is about what it costs for each copy including printing, the envelope and the stamp. The electronic version of the OpPlan will continue to be sent with no additional cost but we must have a current, valid email address.

2. Increase the cost for a lunch at our meetings to \$18.

Those are the proposals. The \$10 must be paid before 1 December of each year or we will remove your name from the USPS mailing list. As for the meal cost: We were considering \$20 per meal so that we could avoid making change for a \$20 bill but we decided to keep it at the lower amount in case it was a burden on anyone. You would make life much easier if you gave Chris K a \$20 bill and said "keep the change" so we could happily add your name to the "Great Guys" list of contributors and avoid making change. For those who have been participating in the Raffle and/or as "Great Guys", please keep it up! Thanks, it helps a bunch!
Please vote before 1700 on 30 September 2017. Tim



MEMBERSHIP

Sel Ramsay

We have a good deal going. We get wonderful and interesting explanations every month of things that happened, going on now, or coming in the future. And we get to eat good tasting

food while all this happens.

But, we are having problems: We used to have over a hundred people listen to our guest speakers. Now we are only about half that number, and need to rebuild our ranks to keep things going into the future. Please ask among your friends to find others who would like to share our camaraderie and bring them to our lunches. I would enjoy introducing them as new members!