

“On Target...On Time...  
Day or Night...Any Weather”

# The Windscreen

A quarterly publication of The Intruder Association

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## The Windscreen

- *The Windscreen is published quarterly by the Secretary*
- *Submit articles for publication to secretary@intruderassociation.org*

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## Intruder Association National Reunion A Success

By Herb Kinney

May 4-7, 2006

We were mostly grayed (or bald) and a little heftier, but none the weaker nor less enthusiastic than some 40 plus years ago when the “Big Ugly” came to us from Calverton, N.Y., where the Grumman “Iron Works” hammered together the first of what were to be many of her kind. “Big Ugly” (there is more to the tag, of course, but this is written for polite company) was the A-6 Intruder, and, for 34 years (until February, 1997), she was the very backbone of carrier attack aviation. The Intruder was loved by those of her community and reviled by nearly all others. This weekend, a large crowd of former Navy and Marine Intruder aviators, maintainers, and supporters gathered in Virginia Beach to burnish the legacy and revel in the memories of bygone times.

Festivities underway at the Virginia Beach Convention Center catering to the wants (and needs) of the Intruders was a hospitality suite in the

Sheraton Hotel, open daily until at least midnight. There was golf on Friday for those who live on the sport and a grand tour of Oceana NAS for the edification of those interested in the finer aspects of air warfare technology that have come a long way in sophistication since the retirement of the Intruder. In the evening on Friday, there was an Association reception at the hotel and, later in the evening, many of the individual former A-6 squadrons held parties for members who had been members of those squadrons at one time or another.

On Saturday morning, the Intruder Association held a members’ business meeting at which the slate of Directors and Officers to serve for the coming fiscal year beginning on 1 June was confirmed by acclamation of those present. At noon on Saturday, Intruders took time to attend the dedication of the new \$1.5M Naval Aviation Monument Park, positioned at a prominent location at the Boardwalk, immediately adjacent to the “Norwegian Lady.”

(See **Reunion**, page 3)

## Message from the Chairman

Greetings, Intruders!

The Reunion in Virginia Beach was a rousing success! We’ve received many compliments from the attendees ranging from “best ever” to “we should do this more often”. Well, plans are underway to conduct the next national Intruder Reunion in San

Diego during 2008. Larry Yarham and others from the San Diego area are making the schedule and events plans now. Highlighting the San Diego Intruder gathering are plans for visiting the MIDWAY Intruder Ready Room, a harbor cruise and a catered banquet aboard MIDWAY.

This is going to be a good one – so start saving your coins and make plans not to miss the “next” one.

The Association owes a debt of gratitude to the Intruder Association Oceana Chapter for staging the May 2006 Reunion. (See **Chairman**, page 2)

## Chairman (from page 1)

Jan Been and Shirley Hollandsworth provided each Intruder attendee with check-in and registration support ably handling the unexpected situations with skill and helpful assistance. Our Golf tourney went off without a hitch, thanks to Jim and Sharon Joyner and Ken Craig. The tour of Oceana was a real hit as the attendees visited the simulators and got a first-hand briefing from returning CAG, Captain Sizemore. This was organized by Maury Unger and George Matt – no strangers to making difficult situations appear effortless. Banquet attending Intruders added wine glasses to their collection courtesy of Northrop Grumman and the efforts of Clyde Cain. The Banquet at the new Virginia Beach Convention Center was simply wonderful.

The dinner service was excellent, the food hot, the wine was on the table, and the 304 Intruders enjoyed an evening of good friends and close comradeship. Many thanks to George and Peggy Burrige and John and Rosemary Hogan for their efforts to set this up for our reunion. The Welcome Aboard Reception at the Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel was very well done. All who attended this event enjoyed delicious munchies and popular beverages. The Ready Room provided the Intruders a space to renew acquaintances, re-tell liberty and war stories, conduct membership meetings and generally recapture some of the experiences of being an Intruder. Thanks to Kent Von Fetch, George Schmidt and Frank Rough for their perseverance in providing a setting for the Intruders to enjoy the company of their shipmates and friends. There were many others who helped to stage this event and our appreciation for their efforts are many and sincere. Finally, I want to thank Ted Been for providing the oversight

and organization for the Reunion Team. Ted tirelessly worked the issues with the hotel, with the Convention Center, tours and the Reunion Team to provide the reports to the Board of Directors to allay our concerns.

Thanks Guys! A Bravo Zulu for that effort.

One of the primary orders of business matters scheduled for the Reunion was the election of the new Officers and Board members. The Association's difficulties with the Intruder web site, while drastically improving, prevented conducting the election of Officers via internet voting. That may be a pipe-dream but we are continuing to try and establish a means whereby the membership can participate in the election of its representatives. Blocked by technical difficulties, the decision was made to conduct this year's election at the Reunion. Members present at the Membership meeting held during the Reunion voted to accept the Nominating Committee's slate of directors and officers by acclamation. Accordingly, the following Officers and Directors will assume the new positions on June 1, 2006:

Chairman of the Board – Rupe Owens

President – Mac McDanel

Vice-President – Bruce Byrum

Secretary – Steve McCaslin

Treasurer – Geoff Swanberg

East Coast Representative – Steve Casmer

West Coast Representative – Larry Yarham

USMC Representative – Bo Boswell

USN Enlisted Representative – Bud Jackson

USMC Enlisted Representative – Steve Dumovich

I extend my earnest appreciation to departing Officers and Directors who have generously donated their time

and talent toward improving and growing the Intruder Association. Charlie Carr, Bill Westerman and Kent Von Fetch contributed energy, dedication and long-standing Intruder experience toward maintaining an effective and viable Association. Good Work!

As many of you may know, the Intruder Association received our federal income tax exemption this year. We are a recognized non-profit, tax-exempt organization under IRS Code 501 (C) 19 – Veteran's Organization. Dues paid to the IA are now deductible on your personal income tax reports. To qualify for this exemption, the Association must maintain and certify that at least 97.5% of the members are Veterans of recognized conflicts OR widows or spouses of those Veteran's. Due to the Intruder's long-standing combat employment record, our membership easily satisfies this requirement. IRS expects the Intruder Association to promote the common good of the community through at least one of the following activities: Assist disabled and needy Veterans; Provide assistance to hospitalized Veterans or members of the Armed Services; Participate in programs to perpetuate the memory of deceased Veterans; Conduct programs of educational purposes; Sponsor or participate in activities of a patriotic nature; And, last, provide social and recreational activities for our members.

As you read the list of activities, you may readily realize the Intruder Association, while not currently involved in all of the activities, is involved in most of the specified actions. For example, the Intruder Association annual scholarship offered through the Tail Hook Educational Foundation and the

(See **Chairman**, page 3)

## Reunion (from page 1)

A vision of CAPT Dennis Free, of the Virginia Beach Police Department, the nine year project was financed entirely by private donations and its development was arranged by the Hampton Roads Squadron of the Association of Naval Aviation under the guidance of RADM Fred Metz, USN (Ret.). Notable speakers included the former Secretary of the Navy, Mr. John F. Lehman, Virginia Beach Mayor Meyera Oberndorf, VADM Dick Dunleavy, USN (Ret.), and Capt. Dennis Free. The magnificent bronze sculptures were executed by the internationally renowned artist, Mr. Michael Maiden

of Sandy, Oregon. Overall, the Monument Park occupied 16,000 square feet and held two 18 ft. tall pylons, six bronze statues, and many engraved tablets depicting three major eras of naval aviation: The Start of Naval Aviation; World War II; and the Modern Age from the Korean era to the present. At the completion of the dedication speeches, there were flyovers by two F/A-18 Hornets and two propeller aircraft (an F-4U Corsair and an A-1 Skyraider) each flown by a 78 year old retired military pilot.

Saturday evening, approximately 350

former Intruder types gathered at the Virginia Beach Convention Center for dinner and an evening of socializing and re-telling of outlandish tall tales and war stories. Never has it been so verifiably true that “The older we get, the better we were.” All kinds of anecdotal revelations were given indicating the skies in which we flew were so dark, the clouds so thick, the flak so bad, and the decks were pitching to a degree not since recorded in history!

All in all, a great time was had by all and a pledge was made to lay waste to San Diego in a similar manner in 2008.

## Chairman (from page 2)

Intruder Ready Room project aboard MIDWAY fall into the category of promoting educational purposes. Annually, the Intruder Association places a wreath at the Vietnam Wall during Memorial Day observance in Washington, DC. In addition, we use the web site and 99 Intruder e-mail to make announcements of deceased Intruders when notified by their dependents. The Association donates cash to other tax-exempt organizations involved in presenting the Intruder legacy to the public.

Lastly, our reunions – nationally and the mini’s at Reno – provide a means for the membership to maintain contact with each other despite the separations occasioned by the distances between residence locations.

I want to add a couple of things to this list. The Board of Directors agreed to participate in the Gateway Park Project at Oak Harbor, WA. The city and NAS have agreed to place a A-6 BuNo 153907 in a new display at the corner of State Route 520 and Ault Field Road (“Sound of Freedom”

corner). Dave Williams is leading a group of Intruder and Intruder supporters in fund-raising and cooperation with the city and NAS to achieve the goal of placing this Intruder on display. We agreed to use the Intruder Association tax-exempt status as the vehicle to allow tax-exempt donations to the Gateway Park Project. The city and NAS are working on a memorandum of agreement on construction, maintenance, and perpetual care of the Intruder. The Project group established a goal of \$100,000 with primary donations expected from local subscriptions and appropriate defense contractors.

The Association has expanded its membership to near 1,100 members in the past two years. One of the suggestions frequently received from members has to do with forming local chapters of the Association. If implemented, this achievement would additionally serve to strengthen our compliance with the IRS requirement to provide social and recreational activities for our members as well as in-

crease our ability to support other educational purposes associated with other museums featuring naval air and the Intruder. The IA By Laws encourage the formation of semi-autonomous satellite squadrons in areas where sufficient numbers of Intruder Veterans reside to make this feasible. I encourage each of you to organize or expand your local IA chapters to increase the membership and expand our “Showcasing a Legend” activities. It has been the IA President’s policy during the past two years to provide a limited amount of monetary support from the treasury for recognized Intruder Association gatherings at local events and reunions. In a word – organize – to expand the membership and increase the camaraderie to include other Intruders.

Thanks to all for your support during this past year.

Very Respectfully,

Rupe Owens

## Whidbey Gateway Park

Rupe Owens led a discussion at the Board of Directors meeting regarding the Whidbey Gateway Park effort with information and materials provided by Dave Williams.

The City of Oak Harbor has an A-6 on loan from the National Naval Aviation Museum. The A-6 has spent years on City Beach and has been neglected. The city and the Navy have agreed to refurbish and move the A-6 to the corner of the SR 20 and Ault Field Rd (where the 'Sound of Freedom' billboard resides).

The Gateway committee would like the IA to act as the fund raising vehi-

cle (primarily corporate/local business sponsors) to take advantage of tax exempt status and to use the IA website to communicate progress and invite contributions from the membership.

The Gateway committee is NOT soliciting IA funding. The goal is \$100K and to be complete by 31 Oct 2006. The Board agreed to the following:

-The IA Treasurer will maintain separate accounting records for donations and expenditures.

-The IA will ask that joint MOU between Navy and City address upkeep, site maintenance and utilities

-The IA President will send letter to CO, NAS Whidbey proposing contribution of donated funds for the project. The letter will then be sent to the Secretary of the Navy to approve the acceptance of the donation.

The IA will setting up a way for members that are interested to contribute to this from the IA website. Look for details soon on the IA website.

## Intruders in the News

This will be a new feature that will highlight news of A-6 bubbas and what they are doing today in either the service or in civilian life. If you have any news of a bubba and would like to see it in the newsletter please send me a note at

secretary@intruderassociation.org.

- **CAPT Brad Johanson** relieved **CAPT Dave Buss** as CO, USS Stennis in Bremerton, WA on 05 May 2006.

## New Guidelines for Linking to IA Website

The IA Board of Directors has adopted the following guidelines for allowing retail and commercially oriented links on our website.

1. Intruder Association web site links are restricted to materials having an association with naval aviation and the A6 aircraft and community.
2. Intruder Association web site Links advertising retail or commercial products and merchan-

dise may be made available to Association members only. The IA Board will consider requests from members for this benefit.

3. Members with Links to personal retail sales activities may not use the member database for solicitation purposes.
4. A disclaimer is to be posted stating: "The Intruder Association does not endorse the content of these linked sites and will not act

in any capacity to resolve disputes between a Vendor and a Buyer. The Intruder Association derives no income, profit or benefit from the linked sites."

5. Any link present on the Intruder Association web site may be removed for any reason or no reason at the direction of the Intruder Association Board of Directors.



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## The Windscreen

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The Windscreen is published quarterly by the Secretary of the Intruder Association. Each edition of the newsletter is posted on the Intruder Association website ([www.intruderassociation.org](http://www.intruderassociation.org)) for members with internet access. These files may be downloaded and saved to your computer and/or printed. Members with no internet access will be mailed a copy through the USPS.

We welcome your input for newsletter articles. Deadlines for submission are March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 01 of each year. Send your inputs to [secretary@intruderassociation.org](mailto:secretary@intruderassociation.org) for review and consideration.

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