

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

# The Windscreen

*A quarterly publication of The Intruder Association*

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

SUMMER 2005



## Points of interest:

- Please update your information on the website
- Mini-Reunion at Hook '05, contact Clyde Cain for details (membership@intruderassociation.org)
- National Reunion planned for May 2006 in Va Beach

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## Intruder Association Website Undergoing Facelift

The Intruder Association has recently switched from our original Internet Service Provider (ISP), Adhost, to our new ISP, Hard Corps, Inc, located in Crystal City, VA. The move is part of our effort to take the great work done by Fred House when he set up the original website and add the functionality and features that we need to enable the website to be the main communications tool with our membership.

As we have already informed you in recent emails this will be a phased project. The first phase is done and that allows our membership to maintain their own information in our database. New members will enter their data when they join and will be able to keep it updated if something changes. Current members will have the same capabilities and we are requesting that all current members go to the website and ensure your information is accurate.

Future features will include a bulletin board, a revamped photo gallery and after the added

functionality has been incorporated (by October 2005) we will give the look of the website a face lift. The main benefit of the overhaul will be our ability to communicate more effectively with the membership and allow the membership to do the same with each other.

There will be growing pains as we migrate to our new ISP so please bear with us. If you experience problems do not hesitate to let us know. Our new webmaster is Jim Offutt and questions can be directed to Jim at <jhoffutt@aol.com> or to Steve McCaslin at <secretary@intruderassociation.org>.

Our plan is to keep it simple and we hope to have it completely renovated in both form and functionality by the end of the year. If you have comments or ideas please let us know. We are excited about the abilities that the new website will bring to the Intruder Association.

## President's Message

Greetings, Intruders!

Slowly, slowly the initiatives selected for action following the San Diego Board Meeting last April are coming into place. Our new Web Server, Hard Corps, Incorporated, completed the initial transfer of the Intruder Association web site to their servers in June. Data base loading and

code refinements were completed to “turn on” the new Members Only section in mid-July. Featured in this section is the member's database wherein individual members may change passwords, update address information and e-mail changes as well as renew membership in the Intruder Association. This im-

provement in membership management is a welcome improvement over the previous methods used. Please forward any comments, positive or negative, regarding the web site to Steve McCaslin or Jim Offutt; and info me so I can keep up with what's going on.

(Continued pg. 3)

# NC Intruder Association to Dedicate BuNo 164378

After a lot of hard work by a small number of local Intruder Bubbas, and financial contributions by many more all across the country, A6E 164378 was tied down on the Hwy 70 pad, Havelock Aircraft Museum and Visitors Center at 0739 Sunday, 6/19/2005.

The NC Intruder Association is planning an Intruder dedication and reunion 16-18 September 2005 at the Havelock Visitor's Center. The events kick off at 1400 on Friday, 16 September with a check

in at the Hampton Inn. There will be a Social at 1800 at the Havelock Visitor's Center. On Saturday, the Dedication Ceremony will begin at 1400 followed by a Social at 1800 and Dinner at 1900 with Bob Cabana as the guest speaker. For more details or to RSVP, please contact Jim Whitlow at <jdubu@cox.net> or via snail mail at 3418 Stratford Rd., New Bern, NC 28562. Please include full name, callsign, address, phone and email.



**A-6E BuNo 164378 at the Havelock Aircraft Museum and Visitor's Center.**

## Memorial Service for LCDR Roger Lester

There will be a memorial service with full military honors for LCDR Roger Lester on Saturday, August 20th, in Morton, WA commencing at 1200. LCDR Lester was lost on a night low level, single plane strike NE of Haiphong during the 1972 cruise of VA-52 on the USS Kitty Hawk. Roger was the pilot and his B/N was LCDR Harry Mossman.

The service will be on the exact date of the 33rd anniversary

of his loss. After repeated visits to the crashsite by the Joint Task Force Recovery teams, only the remains of the B/N were recovered. There was a memorial service for Harry Mossman last August.

it looks like there will be a very large turnout of family, friends and Naval Aviators. They are expecting around 500 or more to attend. The service will commence at the local school gymna-

sium to be followed by internment at the local cemetery where Roger's dad was buried a few years ago. Contact Greg Wood at 206-399-5924 or at gwood@nwlinc.com.



**LCDR RODERICK B. LESTER**

## Memorial Day Ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial



BGEN Marty Post and COL Bob Lanham escort the Intruder Wreath.

The Intruder Association participated in the Memorial Day Observance at The Vietnam Veterans Memorial for the fifth consecutive year. An Intruder aircrew presented a wreath to honor all those in the Intruder community who are no longer with us. This year Brigadier General Marty Post and Colonel Bob Lanham

were the wreath escorts. As proof that the uniform is still a drawing card, please note "Bull" Lanham surrounded by the Gold Star



Mothers.

## Whidbey Island Intruder Family Picnic

If you happen to be in the Whidbey Island area on August 27th make plans to attend the annual Intruder Family Picnic at Rocky Point.

John Schork and John McMahon are coordinating the event which will begin at 1200 on Saturday, August 27th and go till dusk. Attire will be as casual as possible with flight jackets and ball caps encouraged.

You will need to bring your own meat to grill, chips, etc., and the Association will be providing the beer, soda and charcoal.

The picnic is a great way to see old comrades and renew old friendships. The Intruder Association donates some money for this event and if you have the desire to sponsor an Intruder gathering in your area let us know and we will see how we can support your event, too.

The long range weather forecast is good!

For more information please contact John Schork at [jfschork@msn.com](mailto:jfschork@msn.com) or at one of the numbers below:

425-468-1202(Office)

425-802-2752(Cell)

Send us your after action photos and we will publish them on our website and in the next issue of the Windscreen.



A-6s over Deception Pass on Whidbey Island.

## President's Message (cont'd from page 1)

The Board agreed to provide by law revisions to align our administrative actions with the official Articles of Incorporation. We were unable to get these to the members using our 99 Intruders broadcast message which delayed our schedule for completion of this goal. Posting the revisions on our web site allowed quick publication and acceptance by the membership to the revised by laws. Thanks for the quick turn around and the member approval of the revisions. The Board will take up the AdMan in the near future to reflect the by laws changes and to align the administrative procedures with the Association practices. Approval of the by laws revisions set the stage for the first elections of Association directors now scheduled for this month. Steve McCaslin tells me we are ready to go with this next step in bringing our Association inline with the Articles of Incorporation. As you recall, the Board opted to stage this year's election as a sort of "shake down" to evaluate the voting procedures and process. The Board voted to continue those Officers and Directors in place who desired to stay on for an additional tour. This year, we will elect a new Vice President, Treas-

urer, and Marine Officer Representative. The Nominating Committee selected candidates for these positions and the slate will be forwarded soon. The election, to be conducted over the internet, should be soon. Stay tuned.

I am making headway on the Association tax-exempt status. We have received our EIN from the IRS and may now proceed with the application for the Veteran's Organization tax-exempt status. Approval from the Virginia State Corporation Commission is in process and when received, we may apply to the IRS for the exempt status. This is a little more complicated than I thought but there is a logical process and the Association is moving along the path toward the goal. As soon as I am comfortable with a scheduled completion date, I'll pass it along.

In closing, I want to encourage any of you who have not decided to attend the Tail Hook Convention this September 8 – 11 in Reno, to get on board. The Intruder Association will conduct a mini-reunion with an Exhibition Booth, a Ready Room and an Intruder breakfast on Saturday morning (I will attend the breakfast meeting this year having somehow slept

through last year's). I hope to see you there.

For the long range planners, put May 18-21, 2006 down in your calendars. The Intruder Association will hold our National Reunion in Virginia Beach, Virginia in conjunction with the Ocean ANA Squadron's dedication of a new million-dollar Naval Aviation Memorial. The Board approved a donation of \$2,000 toward the construction of this site. Plan to join the hundreds of other Intruders who are coming to visit the area, see the sights, reacquaint with naval aviation, and reconnect with old shipmates and friends.

I am pleased with the progress we are making with our membership drive. Like the USAA, "Every Member Get A Member" is a good slogan. I encourage each of you to seek out Intruders who are not members and encourage them to join with us in the Intruder Association.

Respectfully,

Rupe Owens

President, Intruder Association

## Chairman's Message

### 99 Intruders

So far, 2005 has been a good year for the Intruder Association.

Because of the efforts of Clyde Cain, and Steve McCaslin we are approaching 1000 members. This includes DON Pilots, BNs, fixers and support guys.

However, let's not slack off. The membership drive is NOT over until we have signed up as many of the Intruder bubbas as we can find.

In addition, we had a very good board meeting this past April which generated up-dated by-laws, a proposed fix

to the web site and the base line for election of officers for 2005 and 2006. The President, Admiral Owens, will have had more to say on these matters in his message.

The next "Real" Intruder Reunion will be in Virginia Beach in May 2006. Much more to come on that so keep eyes and ears open for those details. We will get the word out as it becomes available.

Please keep trucking on the membership, think Va. Bch 2006 and press. Charlie



Charlie Carr

## Wetting Down a Commission

In the old Navy, an officer's commission was hand-written on heavy parchment. According to some sources, the newly commissioned or promoted officer held a dinner for his shipmates and friends. During the course of the evening, the new commission was rolled into a cone, the small end folded up to form a cup. This paper cup was passed around the table for all the guests to toast the new officer. Thus, the new commission was "wetted down." Considering the importance of the document, however, this interpretation may be doubtful.

Commissions in the early U.S. Navy were signed and issued by the President and were of great legal and personal value.

According to other sources, the wetting down party was once quite a rough and tumble affair. It was the custom for the officer to wear his new uniform or stripes for the first time at the wetting down. The guests would then proceed to christen the uniform, the occupant, and the commission with whatever liquid refreshment (paid for by the victim) was available. Over

the years, however, Navy life has become more calm, the price of gold braid has skyrocketed and a literal christening is not usually condoned. It might even be considered downright unsociable.

From the Navy's Traditions and Customs on the Naval Historical Center's website.

<http://www.history.navy.mil/trivia/trivia01.htm#anchor253700>

## San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum Intruder Ready Room Update

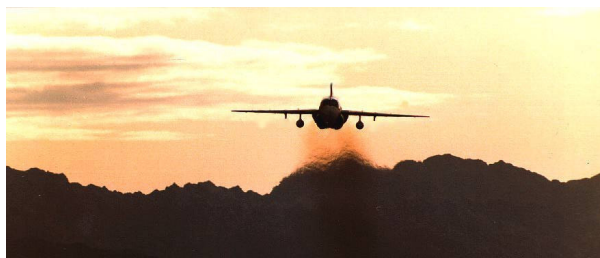
The USS Midway Intruder Ready Room (RR5) planning is moving forward with designs for a first class tribute to the A-6 Intruder, the designers, the manufacturers, the crews and the troops who maintained, launched and recovered them. The USS Midway San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum is now San Diego's second most visited museum behind the world famous San Diego Zoo.

RR5 will depict a typical A-6 era ready

room PLUS present the Navy and Marine Corp Intruder story and preserve the legacy and history of the Intruder. The 'Ready Room' portion will include a small number of seats, PLAT TV with A-6 and A-6 era aircraft landing, SDO desk, message board, mailboxes, flight schedule, squawk box, telephone, etc. Plans also include flight leader (manikin) briefing flight crews with target, WX, AOB, flight data and greenie board. An A-6 paraloft will have a Plexiglas door and

manikins dressing for flight.

RR5 is scheduled to be completed and ready-for-prime time when the Midway opens up the 02 level for visitors. Stay tuned for more details. We will post them on the website as they become available. Donations to date total \$35,790 with \$25,790 (\$2000 from the IA) from individual members and a \$10,000 donation from Northrop-Grumman.



*Lord, guard and guide the men  
who fly  
Through the great spaces in the  
sky.*

*Be with them always in the air,  
In darkening storms or sunlight  
fair;*

*Oh, hear us when we lift our  
prayer,  
For those in peril in the air!*

*Alternate verse of The Navy Hymn,  
Eternal Father  
verse by Mary C. D. Hamilton (1915)*

## The Windscreen



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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Secretary: Steve McCaslin

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## Grumman Memorial Park

*Grumman Memorial Park* is off to a great start. Today Plant Six, where final assembly of F-14s, A-6s, EA-6Bs, and E-2Cs, and Plant Seven, Flight Test, sit empty and silent, their fate yet



**The last A-6 off the line rests at the Grumman Memorial Park in Calverton, NY.**

to be determined. On this historic site at Calverton a one acre memorial will be erected as a tribute. The focal point of the memorial will be a large, specially designed pedestal displaying the ultimate in fighter design – an F-14A *Tomcat!* Surrounding the aircraft a “Walk of Honor” made up of specially engraved marble bricks will surround the display. These bricks can be purchased by individuals who worked, or knew someone who worked for Grumman, that ever flew, or maintained Grumman aircraft both in and out of the military. Their name, years of service, job title and program, or

type aircraft flown, when, and their unit, will be engraved on the brick’s surface.

The remaining nine acres of the site will be devoted to an Aerospace Museum and History Center that will house exhibits of Grumman aircraft. But, as with all projects of this magnitude, they need your help. For more information, contact Grumman Memorial at 516-369-9488 or at [www.grummanpark.org](http://www.grummanpark.org). Check it out!