Journal of the Intruder Association
Volume 2

the Windscreen

Fall 2015 Issue

Sunset Refueling

ON TARGET - ON TIME

- Oak Harbor Walk of Honor Dedicated
- Northwest Intruders Summer Rendezvous
- A Passion for Military Flying and Instructing

www.intruderassociation.org

A Message from the IA President

T. Lad Webb

Dear Fellow Intruders,

Whether you are in the cockpit or responsible for it taking off and landing safely, our history and wartime experiences are being recalled by today's awful and hatred-ridden atrocities in many countries, by persons who do not respect life, and by those who would give their lives to ruin what our Forefathers built under the rule of law.

Most Intruders were called upon to launch in times of combat and have experienced loss as a result. A few notable Intruders were captured, tortured, and held captive for years. Some of those few never returned home to family. We are realists tested by the rigors and uncertainties of war.

While none of us would gleefully think about going back to war, we do still recognize that there ARE values and people worth fighting for – even at the risk of our own peril. Many of us did just that. We did so with the full recognition that we may never return – and that we may never be fully understood or appreciated by some of those we fought to protect.

Another generation is seeing evil challenge the peace and freedom they have enjoyed for decades. We do not know yet if the World's citizens will get the leadership they require – and apply the commitment they should – to save the very freedoms that our predecessors and many Intruders helped to earn.

We can offer our fellow citizens perspective and encouragement, recalling that "Fate Favors the Bold". As we learned during the Cold War, we should never allow the enemy to be perceived as being "Ten Feet Tall".

Courageous folks are needed, and we can each mentor those young enough to go into Harm's Way. Let's speak up, encourage them, and cheer them onward, even as we pray for their success and safe return.

Here at home, our Intruder Association membership is approaching the 1200 mark for the first time! But, we still have many former members yet to be reactivated. Your help with one-to-one encouragement can take us closer to the 1500 level.

Our Financial Operating Accounts are healthy, and next April's Reunion has approximately 500 sign ups already filling one hotel and loading up two others.

In Seattle (#3) and Virginia Beach (#4), our Tribute planning and execution continues, with Seattle's Tribute being fabricated for shipment shortly. We are awaiting an approval from the Virginia Beach City Council, which is reviewing our proposed installation.

At times like these, we all take pride in having been given the tools and Rules of Engagement to act. Ours is a proud tradition indeed! God Bless America, and our entire Intruder family. See you in San Diego!

T. Ladson Webb, Jr., President

Fuzed Bombs On Target First Pass

From the Vice President

Intruders,

As we approach the final stages of planning for the April 2016 Reunion in San Diego, it is very encouraging to see the large number of folks who have already made reservations at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (reunion headquarters). Considering the many, many A-6 locals in the area who may not be staying at the Hotel, but, I'm sure, will be attending the Reunion events, it looks like we are on line for another good turnout at this Reunion – similar to what we saw in P'cola. However, I would encourage everyone to keep beating the drum to ensure the word is getting out about the upcoming Reunion and the continuing opportunity to join the Intruder Association (IA).

While this is important for the entire community, I think it is especially critical on the Marine side. Unfortunately, I continue to hear from Marines who have talked to Squadron mates just recently that, despite numerous 99s from Vulture and others, still have not heard of the IA -- or that the old Marine mailing list and the Cherry Point Reunions are a thing of the past. I would ask that all our Marine IA members reach out to their old Squadron mates, ensure they are aware of the IA, and suggest they check out the Web Site. Perhaps they will consider joining and/or attending the Reunion.

I also encourage our former Marine COs to follow the lead of Wiley Post and Sambo Blickensderfer in "strongly" encouraging their former Squadron personnel thru numerous squadron level 99s to join the IA and attend the Reunions. Sambo did this for the P'cola Reunion, and I don't think it was just a coincidence that the Moonlighters of his era were the best represented Marine Squadron at that event. I can't emphasize enough how much the current leadership of the IA, led by the personal efforts in this area by our President, TLad Webb, and Chairman, Tim Beard, are doing everything they can to ensure that this is a true Navy and Marine organization – but the Marines need to sign up in bigger numbers to cement this concept into reality. Hope everyone enjoys the Holidays and I'll see you in San Diego.

SF/BUZZARD

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The Windscreen, ©2015, is the official semi-annual publication of the Intruder Association. Editor, Ken "Wads" Waidelich. Managing Editor, Computer Graphics, Stephanie Davis. Printed by NCCOAST Communications, Morehead City, NC. Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and may not reflect views of the Intruder Association, Dept. of Navy, or Dept. of Defense. Submissions from the membership for publication are solicited and may be sent to: windscreeneditor@IntruderAssociation.org.

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From the Chairman

Intruders:

As many of you do not stay close to OPNAV issues and news, for this issue I decided to provide an edited overview of CNO Jon Greenert's final "Navigation Plan" – his final budget submission prior to being relieved this fall by another submariner, John Richardson. By "edited" I mean that I have, for the most part, cut out most of the non-aviation portions – except for those that have been given sufficient priority such that they significantly impact just how many $$ CNO has to spend on "everything else." I hope this is not too "programmatic."

Best regards,

Tim

CNO's 2016–2020 Navigation Plan

This year's Navigation Plan highlights our Navy's key investments, which support missions and functions outlined in the defense strategic guidance (DSG), Sustaining U.S. Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense, and the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review, viewed through the lens of my three tenets: Warfighting First, Operate Forward, and Be Ready.

Six programmatic priorities guided our budget decisions in President's Budget-2016: (1) maintain a credible, modern, and survivable sea-based strategic deterrent, (2) sustain forward presence, distributed globally in places that count, (3) develop the capability and capacity to win decisively, (4) focus on critical afloat and ashore readiness to ensure our Navy is adequately funded and ready, (5) enhance the Navy's asymmetric capabilities in the physical domains as well as in cyberspace and the electromagnetic spectrum, and (6) sustain a relevant industrial base, particularly in shipbuilding.

Everything we do must be grounded in this responsibility. Our Navy must have the capability and capacity to conduct war at sea, and win decisively. This requires that we fund four enduring functions around which our Navy has historically organized, trained and equipped: 1) deterrence, 2) sea control, 3) power projection, and 4) maritime security, as well as capabilities related to a new fifth function: all domain access. To maintain our warfighting edge, our FY 2016-2020 budget submission:

- *Sustains today's 14-ship SSBN force, the Trident D5 ballistic missile and support systems ... fully funds RDT&E and Advanced Procurement to support construction of the first Ohio Replacement SSBN in 2021 for delivery in 2028 and first deterrent patrol in 2031.* ***This is our top priority in any fiscal scenario.***
- *Funds USS GEORGE WASHINGTON's (CVN 73) 44-month refueling and complex overhaul.*
- *Supports delivery of the lead ship of a new class of aircraft carriers, USS GERALD R FORD (CVN 78). This will restore the aircraft carrier fleet to 11 ships in 2016.*
- *Transitions a total of four carrier air wings to the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye by 2020.*
- *Continues to support the F-35C Lightning II, the carrier-based variant of the Joint Strike Fighter, and keeps it on schedule to enter operational service in 2018.*
- *Procures 47 P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft to replace the legacy P-3C Orion aircraft, and completes the transition by FY 2019.*
- *Completes the transition to the EA-18G Growler in FY 2016.*
- *Procures 24 V-22 (Navy variant) aircraft to replace C-2 CODs. The V-22 will reach IOC in 2021.*
- *Continues emphasis on cyber efforts to build the Navy's portion of the DoD's Cyber Mission Forces and strengthen our cyber defense capabilities afloat and ashore. We will have formed 40 cyber mission teams with approximately 1,700 cyber operators by the end of 2016.*
- *Provides a global presence of about 115 ships by 2020, representing an increase of 20 over the average of ships deployed today (95).*
- *The MQ-4C Triton high endurance unmanned aerial vehicles will start operating from Guam in 2017.*
- *Increases presence in the Middle East by 40%, to about 36 ships, in 2020.*
- *Continues to evolve our posture in Europe by meeting ballistic missile defense (BMD) European Phased Adaptive Approach requirements with four BMD-capable guided missiles destroyers (DDG) in Rota, Spain, and land-based (Aegis Ashore) sites in Poland and Romania.*

On any given day, about one-third of our Navy is deployed around the globe, fulfilling our mandate – to be "where it matters, when it matters," ready to respond to crises and ensure the security that underpins our global economy. The last ten years of war and recent fiscal uncertainty have taken their toll, but these programs will ensure our Navy remains a balanced and capable force.

From the Editor

Still Growing

It has been years since the last Intruder flew for the Navy and Marine Corps. Yet, our Association is stronger than ever. We now have the support from our Marine Intruders who have joined forces with their Navy counterparts. We have a vibrant fraternity of Northwest Intruders who hold regular gatherings in Oak Harbor. We take part in many Squadron reunions – both formal and informal – all over the country. Daily, the bond continues to deepen within the largest alumni group in the military aviation community.

Intruders fought in Vietnam, the Gulf, and the Cold War. We distinguished ourselves as being on time and on target, in any weather. Part of the reason that we Intruders continue to connect is the fact that we have such great stories to share. We are an organization of people who stay involved. We work hard, we play hard, and we make a difference in our community. We care for our shipmates and service friends, and staying in touch is important to all of us.

Our upcoming national reunion in San Diego is already on pace to be the largest West Coast Intruder gathering we have seen to date. The plan of events is full and exciting, with something for everyone to enjoy. What could be a better venue to renew old Navy and Marine Corps friendships than the heart of downtown San Diego?

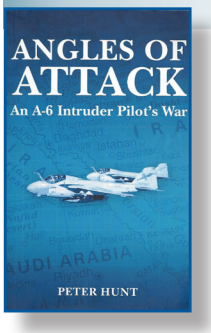
As the editor of your Intruder Association's journal, the *Windscreen*, it is an honor as well as a distinct pleasure to share your stories and photographs with your fellow Intruders. As evidenced by the recent increase in membership and the overwhelming response to another national reunion, it is obvious that you are happy that your Intruder Association finds ways through our reunions, our website, and the *Windscreen*, to keep you informed and involved. Keep those stories coming, and I will be sure to share them with your Intruder comrades.

Looking forward to seeing you this coming April in San Diego!

Wheels up! Wads

Book Review

ANGLES OF ATTACK
An A-6 Intruder Pilot's War
By Peter Hunt



"Yeah, there's a lot of AAA up there," I said, trying not to let my voice crack.

My God, I thought, it looks solid, impenetrable, as if every gun were lined up abreast and firing continuously. How the hell were we going to get through it?"

Rivers didn't respond to my halfhearted request for reassurance – he was doing his job with his head in the boot, searching for the target, trusting I would keep him alive. I pushed the nose over violently, jammed the throttles to the stops, and let the radar altimeter warning deedle for a second as we raced past 400 feet…. Now in the thick of it I could see that there was a certain depth to it; it was not a solid wall, but layers upon layers of individual emplacements. I snapped the wings from left to right in 3- to 4-G turns to avoid the growing hail of bullets….

In his book, ANGLES OF ATTACK: An A-6 Intruder Pilot's War, Peter Hunt straps you, the reader, into the cockpit of an A-6 Intruder as you launch with him from the flight deck of the USS Ranger, CV-61, on the first night attack of Desert Storm. His gripping account of the war – as told from the perspective of a VA-145 pilot – takes you on a journey from waving farewell as you board the carrier in peacetime San Diego, to the Straits of Hormuz, and into the gunsights of Saddam Hussein's anti-aircraft guns and surface to air missiles.

It was Pearl Harbor Day, 7 December 1990, when the VA-145 *Swordsmen* of Air Wing 2 hoisted the last aircraft aboard the USS Ranger. As Peter Hunt walked up to the pier at NAS North Island, there was a certain uneasiness in the air. This deployment was going to be different. War with Iraq was in the making, and the upcoming business of preparing for carrier qualifications and readying the aircraft for combat, now had a sense of clarity. Everyone knew that there was a definable enemy, a mission, and a distinct possibility that there would be combat and mortal danger.

Having kept detailed journals, Peter expresses his thoughts, worries, and feelings, the uncertainty of whether there would actually be combat, and a thorough and accurate account of an A-6 Intruder pilot's view of Desert Storm. You will share the experience of carrier life along with the daily call to action to attack targets and support the Marines. You will also get a bird's eye view and an insider's perspective of the final destruction of Saddam's forces along the 'Highway of Death'.

Although it has been 25 years since the end of Operation Desert Storm, Peter Hunt's account of the war is vivid and immediately brings the reader back to the images of the days in 1990 when the United States first learned of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. You will recount names, places, and news stories of when America first learned of laser guided bombs and no fly zones. This thorough, personal, and highly accurate account of the war is also well balanced with Peter's ability to help the reader understand and accept the context of the news of the day. Angles of Attack is a "must read" and belongs on every Intruder's book shelf!

Reviewed by: Ken "Wads" Waidelich

2015 Intruder Association Scholarship Winner

By Pete Young

This year, the Tailhook Educational Foundation received a total of 14 applications for the Intruder Association Scholarship. Every one of these applicants was an exceptional student with admirable academic records and extracurricular involvement. Average GPA was 3.87, and the average SAT score was close to 1900 – placing the group in the top 12% nationwide. Several applicants scored in the top 5%. Their sponsors from the Intruder community were evenly split between fathers and grandfathers. Thirteen sponsors were Navy veterans, and one was a Marine. Half saw service in the Vietnam conflict, while five served during Desert Storm.

The recipient of the 2015 Intruder Association scholarship is Miss Morgan Graham of Longmont, Colorado. Morgan is a recent graduate of Niwot High School, and has been accepted by the College of Charleston, South Carolina, where she is pursuing a course of study to prepare her for a career in the publishing industry.

Morgan was an outstanding student in High School, where she earned a weighted Grade Point Average of more than 4.32 and was an active member of the National Honor Society. Outside of the classroom, she dedicated much of her time to local and international community service, volunteered as a peer tutor in history, English, and math, and mentored Elementary-aged children. Another of her contributions has been with the charity "Knit-a-Square," which collects knitted squares to make into blankets for children who have lost parents to AIDS. When she is not busy with school or community service, Morgan is an avid reader and also enjoys ballet.

Morgan's career goal is to become an editor for a trade publisher. In order to make this dream more of a reality, while still a high school student, she reached out to industry-executives at McGraw-Hill Education, who were so impressed that they invited her to their New York office so she could learn about the field first-hand. That experience provided her with the confirmation that this is what she would like to do for a living. At the end of this two-day experience, Morgan was offered the opportunity for an extended internship.

Morgan Graham

Morgan was sponsored by her grandfather, Dan "Grumpy" Graham, an Intruder pilot whose active and reserve Navy career spanned more than 25 years. After qualifying in the A-6 at Whidbey Island, Dan deployed with the *Boomers* of VA-165 on board USS CONSTELLATION in 1971-72 and again in 1973, flying combat missions over North and South Vietnam and Laos. After an instructor tour with VA-128, Dan served with the VA-115 *Arabs/Eagles* aboard USS MIDWAY, home-ported in Japan.

Dan flew more than 2500 hours in the Intruder and completed a total of 600 carrier landings. His last assignment before retiring from the Naval Reserves was a one-year recall to active duty as the Naval Attaché in Pakistan. Now retired from 33 years as a corporate pilot flying Citations, Lears, Hawkers and Gulfstreams, Dan and his wife Sally are living in Centennial, Colorado. Morgan is the first of their grandchildren to head off to college.

★

THE INTRUDER ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

At the Intruder Association's first biennial reunion in 2008, our membership voted to endow a scholarship fund that would honor the memory of the 251 members of our community comrades who gave their lives in service to their country while flying the A-6 Intruder.

Our scholarship fund is administered by the Tailhook Association's Educational Foundation, which evaluates applicants and makes the award determination in accordance with the standards of the program. Current fund levels support an annual award of $2400.

To be eligible for consideration for a Tailhook Educational Foundation scholarship, an individual must be a high school graduate and the natural, step, or adopted son, daughter, or grandchild of a current or former member of the A-6 Intruder community who has served in any position, ashore or afloat.

Eligible applicants must be accepted for undergraduate enrollment at an accredited college or university.

Scholarship forms are available yearly after December 15th of the current year, and submission normally closes by the middle of March of the year following. Interested applicants can find full information and forms on the IA website.

INTRUDER REUNION 2016

14-17 April San Diego

Mark your Calendars! It's not too late! Make your reservations NOW!

Plans are in full swing for our April 2016 Intruder Reunion in San Diego, California.

Your West Coast Intruder Association hosts are looking forward to bringing you another superb opportunity to gather, renew old friendships, and share those old war stories with the men and women who have been fortunate to be part of the relationship with this old war bird and the spectacular community of the A-6 Intruder.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel in the Hotel Circle area adjacent to beautiful downtown San Diego, California, will be "Reunion Headquarters". Reservations are definitely filling fast (over 460 reservations thus far), so we have planned for overflow accommodations at the nearby Doubletree Hotel, as well.

From Happy Hour on Check-in Day, to our Friday night dinner cruise, and through our Intruder Banquet on Saturday featuring key note speaker, Stephen Coonts, your reunion planning committee has developed an exciting agenda for your Southern California visit in April 2016:

Thursday, 14 April 2016: Reunion Check in, Arrival Happy Hour, Arrival Dinner Buffet at the Crowne Plaza.

Friday, 15 April 2016: Buffet Breakfast, Reunion Check in continues, Optional tours (USS Midway, Maritime Museum, Seaport Village, and Ramona Wine Tour), San Diego Harbor Dinner Cruise.

Saturday, 16 April 2016: Buffet Breakfast, Intruder Association Business Meeting, Intruder Golf Tourney at River Walk Golf Course, Continued optional tours, Cocktail Hour, Intruder Banquet at the Crowne Plaza featuring famed author and A-6 pilot Stephen Coonts.

Sunday, 17 April 2016: Adios Buffet Breakfast.

Don't miss it! We want you to share it with us. See you in San Diego!!

Still in the Cockpit After 40 Years

By Capt Galen Hammersburg with help from Pieter VandenBergh and Dave Williams

It was 1975 when Pieter VandenBergh found out he was one of the casualties of an excess of post-Vietnam USAF pilots, and now, 40 years later almost to the day, CAPT Pieter VandenBergh, USN (Ret.) has recently - and finally - graduated from a USAF Flight Program. While he was training and completing his T-1A Jayhawk Pilot Instructor Course at Randolph AFB in San Antonio, he had his second chance to fly the T-38 Talon with the 560th Flying Training Squadron (FTS).

A graduate of Parks College of St Louis University, Pieter was commissioned a 2nd LT through the USAF ROTC Program. While waiting to enter the Air Force flight training program in 1975, and with the excess pilots in the USAF, he was faced with the loss of both his pilot and navigator training slots. At that point, fate intervened. Luckily the Navy needed carrier aviators. Pieter resigned his commission from the Air Force and was once again commissioned – this time as an ensign in the Navy – following graduation from Aviation Officer Candidate School (AOCS) in Pensacola. After commissioning, he went directly to pilot training at NAS Kingsville, TX.

Pieter became an A-6 *Intruder* pilot by trade and enjoyed a most successful military career. His nugget cruise was with the *Swordsmen* of VA-145. He served as a CAG LSO onboard USS *Ranger* assigned to CVW-2 with two Intruder Squadrons attached [VA-145 & VMA (AW)-121]. He finished his *Intruder* career leading the VA-95 "Green Lizards" as Commanding Officer during a combat cruise. His squadron won the Hughes Trophy prior to its decommissioning. For his grand finale, Pieter served as Commodore, Training Air Wing SIX (CTW-6) in Pensacola. As Commodore, he was not only responsible for Naval Flight Officer training for the fleet, but he was also involved in the USAF Navigator to Combat Systems Officer (CSO) transition.

Following his retirement from active duty, Pieter became a contract pilot for the Navy, serving as chief pilot for a group called the "Gray Eagles," instructing in the T-39 *Sabreliner* and training naval flight officers (NFO/CSO/WSOs) for the world. After 15 years in that role, Pieter was instrumental in the successful sundown of the Navy T-39 program, and he parked the last T-39 *Sabreliner* in the desert at Davis Monthan AFB in 2014.

VandenBergh,1975, Webb AFB.

Pieter "Dyke" VandenBergh was born in Holland, and he became very interested in military aircraft at a young age. As a young 10 year old Dutch boy, he lived only minutes from Soesterberg Air Base, The Netherlands. He frequently visited a small hill overlooking the Dutch base and dreamed of flying jets such as the F-84, F-100, F-102, F-104 (and F-4s in 1969). He was always impressed with tactical aviation and was inspired as each aircraft would put on awesome aerial displays and fly-bys as they departed and returned to the field.

Flying became Pieter's goal, and, little did he know, he would still be living that dream after all these years. He has literally lived in the cockpit. After a career of 40 years, Pieter recently completed Air Force Instructor Pilot Flight Training, and he is now serving as a Government Civil Service Instructor Pilot (GSIP) flying the T-1A Jayhawk. T-1A GSIP employees work directly for the Air Force and train USAF undergraduate Combat Systems Officer (CSO) students in the advanced phase of flight training. And so, in this chapter of his aviation career, VandenBergh is flying the T-1A *Jayhawk* for the 451st Flying Training Squadron (FTS) at NAS Pensacola.

One indicator of our success is the camaraderie displayed daily in our pilot ready room that is indistinguishable from that in active duty USAF ready rooms.

The 451st CSO training merges three previous USAF Undergraduate Navigator Training (UNT) tracks formerly known as the Navigator track, the Weapon Systems Officer (WSO) track and the Electronic Warfare Officer (EWO) track into one coherent training cycle in order to produce a more versatile aeronautically rated officer.

On a daily basis, the student CSOs fly low-level, visual navigation, radar navigation, air-to-ground strike training, and airway navigation sorties. Combat Systems Officers serve as the mission commanders for electronic warfare, weapons systems, and navigation. As trained experts, CSOs employ kinetic and non-kinetic weapons to dominate the battlespace and deliver unmatched airpower and mobility to the fight. Air Force CSOs deploy around the globe and operate from a bomber, a fighter, or an electronic warfare and mobility aircraft. But no matter where they are, their job is always to use their skills in aircraft employment and advanced weapon systems to accomplish the mission.

The 451st is currently commanded by Lt Col Robert "Decoy" Johnson. On 15 Sept 2015, Pieter and Decoy flew in a T-38 formation flight as part of a USAF mentorship and the continuation of the "long blue line." This story has come full circle as Pieter was the Commodore, CTW-6, that actually gave "Decoy" his CSO wings back in April of 2000. 15 years later, the leadership that Pieter provided to the young Lt. Johnson back then has resulted in the 451 FTS/CC being led by Lt Col Johnson now.

An Intruder Pilot Lives the Dream

Pieter VandenBergh sums up the challenging flight environment faced by the GSIPs and military CSO instructors, "Each mission crew consists of the student CSO, an experienced CSO instructor/mission commander, and the GSIP whose job it is to provide a safe and effective training environment. Training scenarios include low-level strike missions at 500 feet AGL and 300 mph, employing radar and visual navigation techniques. Although flight hours and prior experience in military fixed wing operations are prerequisites for becoming a CSO, the USAF takes a hard look at previous squadron reputation, personality, motivation, and crew resource management (CRM) skills. A key consideration of all GSIP applicants is their suitability in the CRM intensive T-1A multi-seat aircraft.

One indicator of our success is the camaraderie displayed daily in our pilot ready room that is indistinguishable from that in active duty USAF ready rooms. Every day, we share the "there I was" stories of combat situations, ejections, night carrier barricades, bad weather recoveries, call sign origins, and the typical competitive banter between type 'A' personalities."

Pieter lives to perpetuate the traditions and teachings of how to fly. During his tour as commodore of CTW-6, Pieter had a framed poem by an unknown author outside his office that spoke to the significance of aviation wings and the camaraderie of military aviators. It read as follows:

"Many may fly and some are rewarded handsomely… but these emblems mean more than flying. They are dearly bought, require sacrifice to keep…and ***represent a way of life****."*

Our wings of Gold or Silver will always mark us as someone special – a professional and a patriot. Pieter is very serious about our continued contribution to the defense of our nation and the preparation of those who are following in our footsteps to do what we once did. He is very thankful and honored to be part of the USAF Team and treasures the experience of being a 451st GSIP.

Military Aviation is a noble profession, and as Pieter looks around his newly acquired USAF community, he is pleased to say that we too are living up to the standards set by our predecessors. Judging by the professionalism, enthusiasm, conduct, and yes, character, of our young aviators, our future is promising and secure.

CAPT Pieter VandenBergh, USN (Ret), an Intruder pilot of proven skill and courage, has logged over 11,000 military tactical flight hours, 929 carrier landings, survived an ejection, waved a successful night MOVLAS barricade recovery and flown over 20 different model aircraft that include the A-6, the USAF B-1, F-15, F-16, F-4, T-43, T-39, T-38, T-37, and the T-1A.

And… he continues to live the dream…

CAPT Pieter VandenBergh, USN (Ret) has logged over 11,000 military tactical flight hours, 929 carrier landings and flown over 20 different model aircraft that include the A-6, B-1, F-15, F-16, F-4, T-43, T-39, T-38, T-37, & T-1A.

CAPT VandenBergh and LtCol Johnson, 2015, Randolph AFB.

INTRUDER TRIBUTE PROGRAM UPDATE

Larry P. Yarham, Intruder Tribute Chairman.

Intruder Tribute - Cradle of Aviation.

Intruder Tribute - Jerry Cox design.

The Intruder Tribute Program continues to move forward. The basic tribute design has been improved with a 'better-to-view donors' base that places the donor names at a 30 degree viewing angle. We have replaced the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola tribute with the improved base and installed the same improved design in the Cradle of Aviation in New York. All future tributes will include improved donor viewing. The Seattle Museum of Flight Tribute will be installed this November.

We have made substantial progress toward gaining approval for a Tribute in Virginia Beach. Our VA Beach Tribute committee of Fred Metz, Jim Joyner, and John Griffing – with support from Jim Smith of Laser Image & Graphics and local architect Jerry Cox – submitted a detailed proposal for the tribute. The proposal is for a tribute adjacent to the Virginia Beach Naval Aviation Monument Park (formerly known as the National Naval Aircraft Carrier Monument). The proposed 10-foot tribute, artist rendering at left, emulates the existing monument design and materials. The proposal is for installation in the spring of 2016 in time for all the Monument Park summer activities.

Following the Seattle & Virginia Beach installations, future plans include selection of a second West Coast tribute site. Many thanks to all Intruder Alumni for your support of "*Preserving the Legend of the Intruder*" via the tribute program.

Oak Harbor "Walk of Honor" Dedicated

By Dave Williams

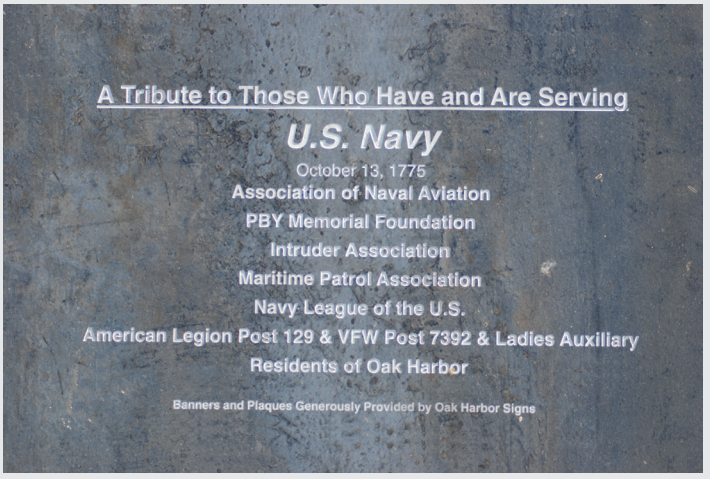
On 23 May 2015, a local Oak Harbor project that had long been the dream of many who wished to honor those who serve, and who are serving, in our nation's armed forces was dedicated. Called the "Walk of Honor," the display consists of permanent banners honoring each branch of the service. These banners are placed on the light poles along Oak Harbor's Pioneer Way. Each banner has an adjacent plaque listing the sponsoring organizations.

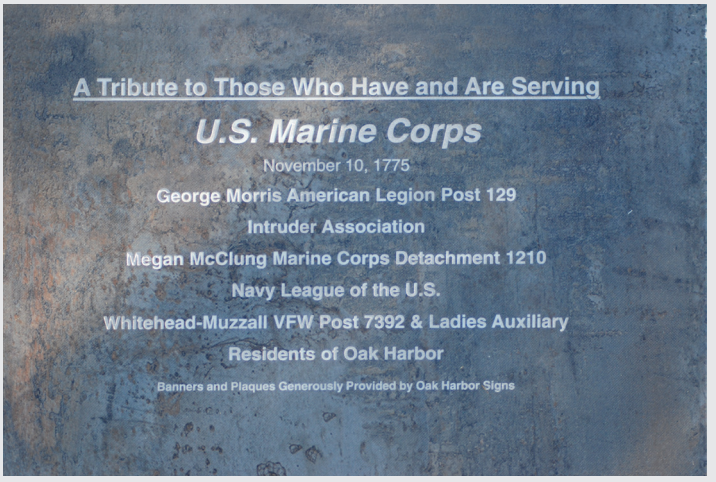
Thanks to the generosity of Northwest Intruders at their 2014 summer rendezvous, the Intruder Association is listed as a sponsor on the plaques for both Navy and Marine Corps. Additionally, the Northwest Intruders have paid for the Intruder Association's share of five years of ongoing maintenance costs for the display.

The banners feature dramatic wildlife and patriotic fine art expressions by Jody Bergsma, a Northwest artist of international fame. This artwork was created and generously donated by Ms. Bergsma.

The goal of the project team was to create a powerful, visual tribute that conveys the Oak Harbor community's heartfelt gratitude to the men and women, both military and civilian, who wear a uniform and provide for our defense and safety.

The Northwest Intruders are proud to have done their part to ensure that the Intruder Association is prominently listed as a sponsor for this outstanding community effort.





Northwest Intruders

By Dave Williams

On Sunday, 23 August 2015, a group of 73 happy Intruder guys along with their spouses and significant others gathered for another great Northwest reunion. The event was held again this year at the beautiful Oak Harbor Yacht Club, overlooking the marina and Oak Harbor Bay, with Intruder Association banners proudly displayed. We enjoyed a delicious meal catered by the Yacht Club's caterers, and washed it down with a keg of Stella – courtesy of the Intruder Association.

A highlight of this year's rendezvous was the participation of our esteemed Intruder Association President, TLad Webb, who made a special trip out from Pennsylvania to join us. TLad was able to renew many friendships and impart his words of wisdom regarding our association, its plans, and its future. His presence contributed much to the warmth and good feelings in the room, and from all indications, he had a great time as well.

We were blessed this year with the presence of Barb Wood, Thelma White and her daughter Pam, Kelly Siebecke (daughter of the Dancing Bear), and Carol Reilly. Also, for the first time, Marie Richmond (widow of Fred Holmes) was able to join us. The presence and participation of these Intruder ladies underscores the importance of our legendary Intruder family – they have always been and always will be there for us.

We were, of course, saddened by the long list of those shipmates who have departed from us in the past year, as we observed a moment of silence in their honor. Those named included Oak Harbor legend Don Boyer, a lifelong supporter of the Navy, Navy League, and, especially, our Intruder community. We were honored to have his wife, Suzanne, with us as part of this year's reunion.

Dave Williams speaks.

IA Webmaster Jack Jordan and his super-organized bride, Linda, once again contributed hugely to the event, with Linda doing her typical outstanding job as greeter, money taker, record keeper and intimidator of those who had allowed their membership to lapse. Also invaluable to the success of the reunion was the hard work of Dick Toft who had to do the work of two since the Fellins have now relocated to the wilds of Montana. Our official photographer, at this and almost all Navy related events here, K.C. Pohtilla, was able to attend this year and did her usual outstanding job of providing photo coverage.

We once again enjoyed an auction, thanks largely to Mary Mobley's donation of some of her beautiful ceramic work and KC Pohtilla's iconic photo of the aircraft at Gateway Park. At the end of the evening those present had donated an impressive $800 to be added to our Association's coffers for future Gateway Park maintenance.

The Northwest Region's next event will take place in the February/March timeframe, with details to be announced. Whidbey was, as always, awesome in its beauty. At the end of the day, a wonderful experience was shared by all. Wish you all could have been there.

Summer Rendezvous

Oak Harbor Gateway.

Special thanks to KC Pohtilla for her years of being the "Official-unofficial" photographer for the Northwest Intruders. Her dedication and support of our association have been well-received, and we are pleased that she was able to attend the event in Oak Harbor this summer.

NAVY.COM Blue Angels MARINES.COM

2016 SHOW SCHEDULE

MARCH

12	NAF El Centro Annual Air Show	NAF El Centro, CA
19-20	Los Angeles County Air Show	Antelope Valley, CA

APRIL

02-03	Southernmost Air Spectacular	NAS Key West, FL
09-10	Wings Over South Texas Air Show	NAS Kingsville, TX
16-17	Smoky Mountain Air Show	Knoxville, TN
23-24	NAS Fort Worth JRB Air Power Expo	NAS Fort Worth JRB, TX
30	MCAS Cherry Point Air Show	MCAS Cherry Point, NC

MAY

01	MCAS Cherry Point Air Show	MCAS Cherry Point, NC
07-08	Guardians of Freedom Air Show	Lincoln, NE
14-15	Spirit of St. Louis Air Show	St. Louis, MO
21-22	Lynchburg Regional Air Show	Lynchburg, VA
25	USNA Air Show	US Naval Academy, MD
27	USNA Graduation Flyover	US Naval Academy, MD
28-29	Jones Beach Air Show	Jones Beach, NY

JUNE

04-05	The Great Tennessee Air Show	Smyrna, TN
11-12	Syracuse International Air Show	Syracuse, NY
18-19	Dayton Air Show	Dayton, OH
25-26	Vero Beach Air Show	Vero Beach, FL

JULY

02-04	National Cherry Festival Air Show	Traverse City, MI
09-10	Milwaukee Air & Water Show	Milwaukee, WI
16	Pensacola Beach Air Show	Pensacola Beach, FL
23-24	SD Air National Guard 70th Air Show	Sioux Falls, SD
30-31	Arctic Thunder Open House	Elmendorf AFB, AK

AUGUST

06-07	Seafair Air Show	Seattle, WA
20-21	New York City Air Show at Coney Island	Brooklyn, NY
27-28	Cape Cod Air Show	Cape Cod CGAS, MA

SEPTEMBER

03-05	Cleveland National Air Show	Cleveland, OH
10-11	NAS Oceana Air Show	NAS Oceana, VA
17-18	National Championship Air Races	Reno, NV
24-25	MCAS Miramar Air Show	MCAS Miramar, CA

OCTOBER

01-02	Rocky Mountain Air Show	Aurora, CO
08-09	San Francisco Fleet Week	San Francisco, CA
15-16	Star-Spangled Spectacular	Baltimore, MD
22-23	Wings Over Houston Air Show	Houston, TX
29-30	NAS Patuxent River Air Expo	NAS Patuxent River, MD

NOVEMBER

05-06	Birthplace of the Blue Angels Air Show	NAS Jacksonville, FL
11-12	Blue Angels Homecoming Air Show	NAS Pensacola, FL

DEPARTING

MR. Don Boyer, Navy Leaguer & Staunch A-6 Supporter
MR. Jim Frey, Grumman Field Service Ops. Manager
LCDR Joseph P. Fordham, USN (Ret)
LCDR Fred L. Hewitt, USN (Ret)
CAPT Stewart D. Langdon, USN (Ret)
COL Curtis G. Lawson, USMC (Ret)
CDR Steve "Bags" Rabogliatti, USN (Ret)
MR. Frank Remeczki, Grumman Rep.
CDR Leon "Steve" Stevenson, USN (Ret)
LTCOL John Valovich, USMC (Ret)
MAJ Jim Viera, USMC (Ret)

Membership Report

Membership report

Our Membership continues to grow – we currently have 1122 active members. We have pared down the list of those who drifted away to 575, which is down from over 650. I am providing the list of those who have drifted away to the web master to post on the web site. Please go there, see who you know, and convince them to come back. Also, get after former shipmates in your squadrons and get them to join! Remember the offer, that, for every three from that list you get to rejoin, you get a one year free extension to your membership!.

V/R Clyde Cain

Membership Chairman

Welcome Aboard

New Members

Rick Allen	Taylors, SC
Kelly Allender	Arlington, TX
William (Bart) Bartels	Chandler, AZ
Duncan Blankinship	Midlothian, VA
Larry Comstock	Colbert, WA
Barrett Craig	Encino, CA
Byron Duke	Granbury, Texas
Jack Estes	Indianapolis, IN
James (Pat) Faulkner	New Bern, NC
George Focht	Huntington Beach, CA
Ronald Forch	Lynchburg, VA
Steven Fox	Clive, IA
Christopher Goedeke	Tampa, FL
Lee Heiser	Seguin, TX
Michael Jenkins	Round Rock, TX
Richard A Johnson	Hanover, NH
Scott Leitch	Fairfax, VA
Kevin Lyles	Fairfax Station, VA
David Martinez	Arenas Valley, NM
Ben Moody	Dallas, TX
Ellen Moore	Alexandria, VA
Byron Morris	Lynden, WA
Stephen Mugg	Mission Viejo, CA
Chuck Nikic	Akron, OH
Byron Phelps	Oak Harbor, WA
Charlie Pitts	North Kingstown, RI
James Poston	Hixson, TN
James Powers	Colleyville, TX
James Purgason	Bartonville, TX
Steven Ratajczyk	Virginia Beach, VA
Randall Richards	Spring, TX
Jerry Richardson	Florence, AL
Ronald Ritter	San Francisco, CA
Mark Roberts	Newburgh, IN
Bob Russell	Walnut Creek, CA
Clyde Smith	Austin, TX
RC Smith	Little Rock, AR
Michael Summers	Lemon Grove, CA
Ronald Suter	Keller, TX
Walter Thompson	Scenery Hill, PA
Redd Tony	Virginia Beach, VA
William Van Atten	Broomfield, CO
Charles Van Gorden	Ballwin, MO
John Wesdock	DuBois, PA
George Zamka	Manassas, VA

99 Intruders: Listen Up!

- **Check out** the Intruder Association Web site. Changes are in the works for a completely new and upgraded web design that will have features to make it user friendly for tablets and smart phones!
- **VA-35 Desert Storm 25th Reunion**: Jan 15-17, 2016 (Fri-Sun) at the Virginia Beach Hilton, (Atlantic Ave, on the Oceanfront). Events include: Friday, Jan 15th, Flight Jacket/Flight Suit Happy Hour at the Hilton; Saturday, Jan 16th, Morning tour of NAS Oceana Flight Line/Evening banquet; Sunday, Jan 17th, Informal breakfast at local eatery/Depart the Pattern.
- **Don't forget!** Our national reunion is coming up this April 14-17. See you in San Diego!

INTRUDER ASSOCIATION

New members will receive

the new Windscreen newsletter 2 x annually

Join online at

www.IntruderAssociation.org

or use the form in this issue

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The
INTRUDER ASSOCIATION **Membership Application**

Name _____ ☐ New Applicant ☐ Renewal Date___/___/___

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Tel ( ) _____

Spouse's Name _____ E-mail _____ Your call sign or nickname _____

Military Service: Retired ☐ Active Duty ☐ None ☐

Branch: _____

Pilot ☐ B/N ☐ Maintainer ☐ Ordy ☐ Support ☐ Associate ☐

War Veteran of: Korea ☐ Vietnam ☐ Gulf ☐

Service Dates (YY-YY) _____Squadrons _____

Carrier Air Wing/Marine Air Wing _____

Membership: ☐ 1Yr $25 ☐ 2 Yr $45 ☐ 3 Yr $65

The Intruder Association is accepting new and renewal membership applications via PayPal on our website or by personal checks. To access the PayPal method, go to http://www.IntruderAssociation.org and select Join, for new members, or log in at Members Log In. To pay by personal check, please mail this application along with your check made payable to:

The Intruder Association
c/o Clyde Cain
18407 Rangeland Rd.
Ramona, CA 92065

For questions, contact Clyde Cain at membership@IntruderAssociation.org.

Click JOIN/RENEW link at www.IntruderAssociation.org