



Vol. 5 No. 9

ANA Squadron 40

September 2001

Pres: [Scott Hornung](#)

VP: [Roger Lerseth](#)

Treas: [R.G. "Tugg" Thomson](#)

Upcoming Events

September 7, 2001 -- C-40A briefing/tour/reception, VR-61

September 11, 2001 -- Monthly luncheon (1130-1300) *JSF*, Bill Wilson (Boeing)

October 9, 2001 -- Monthly luncheon (1130-1300) Commodore Swoish, CVWP

November 13, 2001 -- Monthly luncheon (1130-1300) Commodore Martello, CPRW-10

December 11, 2001 -- Monthly luncheon (1130-1300) Captain Salter, NAS Whidbey

September 7 Event: C-40A Briefing/Tour/Reception (VR-61)



The following schedule is for those individuals planning to attend the C-40A briefing, tour and reception:

Brief: 1300, VR-61 Ready Room

Tour: 1345, VR-61 Ramp

Reception: No-Host Reception at the Officers Club following the tour

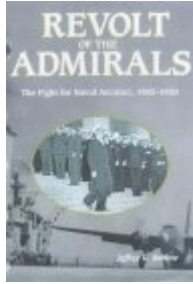
September 11 Luncheon: JSF, Bill Wilson (Boeing)



Our guest speaker on the 11th is Bill Wilson from Boeing. His intent is to update us on the status of Boeing's version of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), the X-32. Bill is particularly well suited to address this issue, as he was not only the Lead Engineer for the cockpit design of the aircraft, but he was also involved in its carrier suitability tests...the latter despite his Air Force background as a combat pilot/WSO in F-111s. He will have video of the testing with him. His brief will be very interesting in any event, but its timing is particularly appropriate as the JSF competition is reaching end-game. If you care about Naval Aviation's future, don't miss this one.

Did you know him? Dick (Richard) Walls: an A-6 type (VA-145) killed in an accident at Boardman in 1969. His daughter, Lori, was 11 when he was lost. She has been directed to the appropriate government sources for their records about him, but she would still appreciate hearing from anyone who knew him. If you knew Dick, and are willing to talk with Lori about her father, please contact her at lwalls@halcyon.com

SEPTEMBER BOOK NOTES, 2001



REVOLT OF THE ADMIRALS; *The Fight for Naval Aviation, 1945-1950*
by Jeffrey G. Barlow; Brassey's 1998, 420 pages.

This book is about military roles and missions, defense establishment internecine warfare, turf, politics, egos, power and public relations. It has heroes and villains, honor and chicanery, self-servings and sacrifices. It has everything except a love interest. At its core it is a fascinating, extremely well-written examination of differing military aviation doctrines and the struggle of a small cadre of senior Naval officers to preserve and perpetuate continuing development of carrier aviation following WWII.

Doctor Barlow lays the groundwork for the main story by tracing the development of Army Air Force strategic bombing concepts and naval carrier aviation from post WWI through WWII. Therein lies the genesis of the intensity of the ensuing struggle. As early as the 1920s Brigadier General Billy Mitchell, was echoing the ideas of Italian General Giulio Douhet on the merits of strategic bombing. Mitchell and other WWI AAF veterans also began to lobby for the establishment of independent Department status, to control all military aviation, within the US military establishment. Initially neither the War Department (Army) nor the Navy Department bought this concept which would have involved spinning off all US Military aviation assets and resources to form this alien third military department. However as aviation technology evolved over the next two decades, it became generally accepted there would eventually be a separate military aviation department which would be an AAF spin-off from the Army. Each of the military services had vastly differing concepts of the employment doctrine for aviation warfare and who/what should be the controlling agency. During the same time the concept of a general staff or unified command structure was being suggested from certain military thinkers but not taken seriously by our peace-loving isolationist national fathers. These two ideas would come together in a sort of political equivalent to nuclear war – fission, the AAF/Army split and fusion, the military establishment unification process – with a lot of the accompanying chaos and swirling fog.

During WWII the drive for a unified Cabinet level National Military Establishment picked up steam, culminating in the National Security Act of 1947. This set up the Cabinet level Department of Defense wherein the Departments of Army, Navy and Air Force Chiefs operate within the Joint Chiefs of Staff organization functioning under their respective civilian secretariats that serve under the Secretary of Defense. Roles and missions were not well defined but very subjectively understood. In September 1944, almost a year before the end of WWII, the hierarchy of the AAF had established a public relations operation and hired professional PR people to promote their agenda with the public and Congress. The Navy Department was almost oblivious to the threat posed by the new developments until discovering their proposal for a new super-carrier was being undermined by Air Force. The new ship was subsequently surreptitiously removed from the budget by SECDEF while SECNAV was out of town. SECNAV resigned and was replaced by an Omaha lawyer with no previous military experience and no understanding of the military establishment. Throw into this mix: the rapid emergence of weapons of mass destruction, and a singularly ambitious self-serving pro-Air Force SECDEF whose arrogance and abrasive know-it-all demeanor alienates the Congress and ultimately gets him fired. Add Carl Vinson and the House Armed Services Committee, "The Anonymous Document," Arthur Radford, Arleigh Burke, Louis Denfeld, Curt LeMay, Hoyt Vandenberg, Stuart Symington, limited funds, expensive weapons and you have the recipe for a gourmet delight to titillate the appetite of the most jaded history buff or Pentagon policy wonk.

"Revolt of the Admirals" is well organized with a "Conclusion" synopsis after each chapter. It also includes sixty-eight pages of endnotes, a thirty-one-page bibliography and a three page abbreviations dictionary. It is an excellent book and a great read providing fresh insight into one of the defining chapters of the Post WWII experience. Highly recommended.

Jeffrey G. Barlow is a historian with the Contemporary History Branch of the Naval Historical Center. He holds a Doctoral Degree in International Relations from the University of South Carolina and is writing an official two-volume history of U.S. Navy and national security affairs.

Review prepared by George G. Fisher

Dues: If you need to pay dues, Give \$12 to
"Tugg" Thomson at the meeting or
mail a check to:

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Web Site Reminder:

As usual, late-breaking information and links to related material can be found on our web site at
<http://www.ANAWhidbey.org>
