



Vol. 5 No. 2

ANA Squadron 40

February 2001

Pres: [Scott Hornung](#)

VP: [Roger Lerseth](#)

Treas: [George Fisher](#)

## Upcoming Events

**February 13, 2001** -- Monthly luncheon (1130–1300) Naval Attaché Tour in Thailand.

**March 13, 2001** -- Monthly luncheon (1130–1300) Topic TBA

**April 11, 2001** -- Monthly luncheon (1130–1300) Topic: El Dorado Canyon Strikes (1986)

**May 8, 2001** -- Monthly luncheon (1130–1300) John Payne, Olympic Squadron

## February 13 Luncheon: CAPT Undesser Naval Attaché Thailand Tour



CAPT Douglas Undesser, USN (Ret.) will provide highlights of his recent tour in Thailand as Naval Attaché. Doug Undesser is a former A-6 pilot with two squadron tours at Whidbey and one tour as CO of the Medium Attack Weapons School. Following Air Boss and War College tours, Doug proceeded to South East Asia as Naval Attaché. We welcome Doug and look forward to his presentation on the politics and exotic life in Thailand'

## January 9 Luncheon:

**CTC Douw H. Mac Haffie, USN (Ret.)  
Pearl Harbor Attack, Battle of Savo Island  
and other WWII engagements**



Our thanks to CTC Douw H. Mac Haffie, USN (Ret.) for his fascinating presentation at the January luncheon. Mac served on board the USS *Ralph Talbot* (DD-390) throughout WWII survived the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941, fought at Savo Island on August 9, 1942 (when the harbor became known as Iron Bottom Sound), endured the Okinawa campaign during kamikaze attacks and was involved in numerous other Pacific engagements in WWII.

## January 17 *Desert Storm* Happy Hour



January's highlight was undoubtedly the tenth anniversary commemoration of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm on the 17th. The evening provided an outstanding historical review and "there I was" discussion by CDR. Matt "Gucci" Scassero, CO of Electronic Attack Warfare School (EAWS); CDR. Casey Collins, skipper of VAQ-129; retired CDR. R.G. "Tugg" Thomson III; and (former) COMVAQWING CAPT. Roger Pierce. All three warriors talked at length about the preparations for the war in the desert and then what it was like flying into "the rocket's red glare" over Iraq. Skipper Scassero - who helped organize the event with "Tugg" Thomson - served with VAQ-136 in USS Midway (CV-41); Roger Pierce was with VAQ-130 in John F. Kennedy (CV-67), operating from the Red Sea; Skipper Collins started the war as part of the joint planning staff engaged in SEAD (Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses) preparations

before wangling some green ink time with VAQ-137 from the deck of USS America (CV-66); and Thomson served with VA-145 off USS Ranger as part of the famous "All Grumman Air Wing." Skipper Scassero stated there were two reasons for the event: as a salute to those who didn't come home, and also to pass the lessons on to others. If the crowd's response was any indication - nearly 100 attended, including a substantial contingent of active duty as well as retirees, Vietnam and Korean War veterans - they fully succeeded. Our thanks and a tip of the helmet to all of the participants and to Northrop-Grumman and USPA&IRA for sponsoring the event.

*Submitted by "Ranger" Mark Morgan*

## More on *Desert Storm* . . .



**Speaking of *Desert Storm*, ten years later...** Cynthia and Cliff Acree recently published a book titled **The Gulf Between Us** about Cliff's experiences as a Marine OV-10 squadron CO in the Gulf War and, more specifically, his time spent as a POW in Iraq. The book was recently reviewed for the Nam POW organization by one of its most respected members, Cdr. Paul Galanti, who spent over seven and a half as a POW in Hanoi. His review, in part: "I felt like I was stepping into a time warp within pages of opening Cynthia and Cliff Acree's personal war story. Theirs was a repeat of what many of us Vietnam POWs and our families had gone through 25 years before. That their ordeal was much shorter is irrelevant. Neither knew when it would be over and the agony they went through was identical to what the Vietnam POWs experienced.... The book is very well written and a good read.... I highly recommend it." The book is published by Brassey's, Inc., ISBN 1574881590 and is available through Amazon.com.

*Submitted by Roger Lerseth (VP/XO ANA Whidbey)*

## ANA Whidbey and VR-61 combine to preserve aviation and military history:



ANA's Capt. Joe "Fangbanger One" Joe Weber, DC, USN (Ret) and Cdr. Jim "Jimdawg" Poore, USN (Ret) recently inventoried and boxed 75 volumes of books related to military and aviation history. The books were specifically requested by the National Museum of Naval Aviation at NAS Pensacola, FL. The VR-61 Islanders provided their transfer to Pensacola as a "lift of opportunity." On behalf of the Naval Aviation Museum, our sincere thanks go to Fangbanger One,

Jimdawg and the Islanders for that cooperative effort to get those books where they truly belong.

**Dues:** If you need to pay dues, contact George Fisher at the meeting or mail checks to:

**ANA Whidbey Island Squadron  
P.O. Box 1888  
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**Web Site Reminder:** Check <http://www.ANAWhidbey.org> for additional information.



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