



Vol. 4 No. 6

Pres: [Rick Porritt](#)

ANA Squadron 40

VP: [Scott Hornung](#)

Sec/Treas: [Roger Lerseth](#)

June 2000

Upcoming Events

June 13, 2000 -- Monthly luncheon (1130 - 1300). VQ-1 Command Brief

July 11, 2000 -- Monthly luncheon (1130 - 1300). Major Jacques Poitras, Canadian Army

August, 2000 -- No Monthly luncheon .

June 13 Luncheon: VQ-1 Command Brief



[VQ-1](#) *World Watchers* will provide their Command Brief. Flying the EP-3E AIRIES II mission aircraft, VQ-1 provides electronic reconnaissance from the west coast of the United States to the other side of Africa.

May 9 Luncheon: CDR Dave B. "Woody" Woods, USN (AoA Study)



CDR Dave B. "Woody" Woods, USN, former CO of VAQ-132, currently the EA-6B and *Electronic Attack* Requirements Officer on the CNO's staff, provided a presentation on the Analysis of Alternatives (AoA) to the EA-6B mission. The AoA study will be completed by December, 2001. The study will examine platform alternatives for *Airborne Electronic Attack* during the 2010-2030 time frame. The study manager is MGEN John Corder, USAF (Ret.). MGEN has a background in B-52s and F-4s.

Happy Hour May 19: [Son Tay Raid](#) Presentation



The Whidbey Squadron - in association with the regional chapter NamPOWS, Inc., Whidbey O'Club and Northrop Grumman - put together another outstanding special event on Friday, 19 May, with a session covering the 30th anniversary of the Son Tay POW Camp raid.

The assault on Son Tay took place on 21 November 1970 and was led by a joint Army Special Forces-U.S. Air Force extraction force commanded by legendary Green Beret Col. "Bull" Simons. While the operation didn't turn up any U.S. POWs, it did succeed in getting the attention of the North Vietnamese while boosting the morale of the POWs at other locations such as the infamous Hanoi Hilton.

Whidbey Squadron admin officer and former POW Roger Lerseth did the introduction, talking about the military situation and political concerns at the time of the rescue attempt. He then introduced the two featured speakers: former POW and Son Tay "resident" Wes Schierman and Son Tay Raider Command Sergeant Major Greg McGuire, U.S. Army (Retired).

Schierman led off, describing his seven-year incarceration in Vietnam which included a period at Son Tay. A former Air National Guard P-51 armorer, Wes subsequently went into the Air

Force, attended flight training and completed - as he put it - "36½" missions in F-105D *Thuds* before being shot down.

During his portion of the talk he referred to a map of the Son Tay compound, gave some background on its use and described various portions of the camp. He commented the three initial cell blocks were named "Cat House," "Opium Den" and "Beer Hall," adding the Air Force guys figured they'd been named by Navy crews for their favorite hangouts in Olangapo. Wes further testified their treatment at the "primitive" facility was "quite brutal, particularly during the spring and summer of 1969."

Greg then moved to center stage and took the audience through the training, operational planning and execution of the mission. The preps were extensive and done under the "strongest operational security," to the point that a full-size mockup of the camp was taken down every morning so that Soviet imaging satellites wouldn't detect it. He then went into detail on the operational forces, which employed Air Force special operations *Sandies* (A-1s), *Hercs* (C-130s) and *Jolly Greens* (H-53s and an H-3) to get the Green Berets in and out.

While the raid was ultimately unsuccessful - and resulted in a firestorm of criticism among anti-war groups and members of the government back in the states - it did get the attention of the North Vietnamese. The entire raid took 27 minutes, in and out, and didn't return any POWs, but it served to heighten morale among the POWs and American fighting men everywhere.

The session brought one of the biggest turnouts yet for the Whidbey Squadron, with over 80 members and guests, including several Canadian Forces representatives. A big squadron "thanks" and Bravo Zulu to both Wes and Greg for their remarkable presentation.

Ranger Mark Morgan

A-3 Static Display Update: CAPT T.J. Williams, USN (Ret.) has volunteered to swing by the Mojave airport and give 144832 a close look to see if it meets our static display requirements.

Congratulations/Transitions:

CVWP: Congratulations to CAPT John P. Cryer for his selection to the rank of rear admiral. On June 1, 2000 RADM (select) Cryer turned over command of the tactical electronic warfare wing to CAPT Douglas R. Swoish. RADM (select) Cryer's next assignment will be in the Pentagon on the CNO's staff in the Department of Assessment.

Dues: For most members, the annual \$12 local membership fee is due by July 1, 2000.

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>



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Dues Expire: 7/1/00