



Upcoming Events

March 13, 2001 -- Monthly luncheon (1130–1300) VP-40, Deployment Debrief

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

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

Welcome Aboard: CAPT Dean DolQuist, USN (Ret.)
CAPT Robert H. Osborne, USN (Ret)
CDR Chuck Christiansen, USN (Ret)

March 13 Luncheon: An Ides (-2) of March Two-fer:



Cdr. Tim Miller, USNR, CO of the VR-61 Islanders will provide a short brief on the replacement aircraft for the aging C-9 fleet, the C-40 (737). His presentation will focus on how the new aircraft will enhance the lift capabilities of VR-61 and improve fleet support through enhanced aircraft availability and range. The value added to our deploying VAQ and VP/VQ squadrons will be explained, as will the potential effect on the region's economy should the Navy choose to expand and/or accelerate the current aircraft replacement schedule.



Cdr. Bernie Ryan, USN, CO of the VP-40 Fighting Marlins, will follow with a post-deployment debrief about the Marlins' recently completed deployment to the Indian Ocean. VP-40 not only dealt with the myriad of tasks normally assigned a deployed VP squadron, but also became closely involved in supporting the USS COLE following the deadly attack on that ship in Yemen. This promises to be an interesting luncheon. Come out and bring a friend.

February 13 Luncheon: CAPT Undesser Naval Attaché Thailand



At our regular meeting on Tuesday, 13 February, squadron members sat enthralled over tales of Thailand by Capt. Doug Undesser, USN(almost ret'd). The good captain - a former CO of Medium Attack Weapons School - wangled a trip to Bangkok for his "sunset" tour; he kept everyone highly entertained for an hour talking about his unique job as "ALUSN," or American Legation - United States Naval.

Besides his work in the former Kingdom of Siam, he also served as Naval Attaché to Burma and managed multiple trips to Vietnam and several of the surrounding nations. His stories included flying into Hanoi in the legation's C-12, followed by an around-the-world C-12 "hop" which saw them take the sturdy Beechcraft to the depot at MCAS Cherry Point via the "scenic route." As he put it, the eastbound leg across the Pacific at "Flight Level 290, at 240 kts true," measured in *days*.

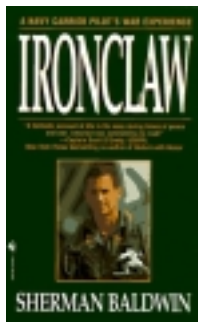
Capt. Undesser also talked at length about the militaries and the politics of the region - the Thai Navy, in particular, has fallen on hard times due to financial woes and budget cuts, but is still one of the few in the world to operate a carrier - and discussed the "fun" involved in coordinating ship visits. He and his wife Julie rated the three-year tour as "exciting," and the perfect cap to a great Naval career.

We welcome Doug back to "The Rock," and thank him for his excellent talk.

Submitted by "Ranger" Mark Morgan

More on Desert Storm; Book reviews:

IRONCLAW: By Sherman Baldwin



This book is the accounting of a Naval Aviator fresh out of the EA-6B “Prowler” RAG, VAQ-129. The author is airlifted directly to the Persian Gulf to join VAQ-136 aboard USS Midway. Baldwin describes his concerns about developing a reputation among his NFO crew and other squadron officers...concerns that were nearly as serious as the obvious fears inherent to day and night carrier operations and combat missions. The complexities of developing trust in crew coordination, unstated ready room protocol, and excitement over flight schedule event assignments make the reader feel like they too are participating. Night tanking from USAF Stratotankers and the intricacies of fuel management make the successful HARM missile attack on an enemy SAM site seem like an anti-climax! This book is a great account of modern carrier warfare. IRONCLAW is available in paperback through Amazon.com.

Reviewed by ANA member John Nelson.

SHIELD AND SWORD: By Edward Marolda & Robert Schneller



The authors, both historians at the Naval Historical Center in Washington, DC, relate the campaign at sea in the 1991 Gulf War. Based on previously classified action and lessons-learned reports, interviews with participants, and CNA and DOD studies, this book is a candid evaluation of leadership effectiveness, interservice relations and methods of command and control. It also analyzes the effectiveness of various weapons and sensors, including Tomahawk, the EA-6B, Aegis and unmanned vehicles. Winner of the Navy League’s Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt Naval History Prize, this credible historical account captures the drama as well as the detail of a modern victory at sea. SHIELD AND SWORD is available in hardback through the USNI (discount for members) or Amazon.com.

Submitted by Roger Lerseth (VP/XO ANA Whidbey)

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



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