

Nitro Blast

The Newsletter of the
USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23)
Association
Volume 3, Issue 3
Dec 2000 /Jan 2001
Editor: Jim Timmons
Assn. Membership 142

Charleston – Here We Come!!!

Keep the Memories Alive



 **Association**
Headquarters Chosen 

Sorry for the delay in publishing this copy of the *Nitro Blast*. After making an unscheduled trip to Charleston to make arrangements for the reunion, we have decided on the Holiday Inn, Mt. Pleasant, SC., as our reunion hotel.

A block of 30 rooms has been reserved for our members. The cost is \$99/per night for either double bed or king guest rooms (breakfast for two included). Members attending the reunion must make their own reservations. You may place your reservations by calling either 800-290-4004 or 843-884-6000 ask for Susie York at ext. 122. Tell them you are reserving rooms for the USS Nitro Reunion for "x" number of nights. Reservation deadline, for this rate, is 15 May.

The Association agenda is as follows. Dates of the events or events themselves are subject to change:
(Activity and Assn. Dinner sign up sheet will be mailed or emailed shortly)

Thursday, 21 June - Meeting room setup (afternoon).
Afternoon - Association members check in (Ship's Store open). **Evening** - Association Annual business meeting.

Friday, 22 June - Morning - Trip to Patriot's Point Naval and Maritime Museum. Tour of the USS Yorktown, a diesel sub, a FRAM destroyer, a cutter and a restored Vietnam Support Base. Wreath Laying Ceremony on board Yorktown. Possible lunch aboard Yorktown.
Afternoon - FT. Sumter tour departing from Patriot's Point. **Evening** - Association Annual dinner at the hotel.



Saturday, 23 June – Day - Bus tour of historical Charleston and/or plantation. **Evening** - Final get-together at the hotel.

Nitro Association 2001 Dues

2001 Association dues of \$20.00 and \$3.20 for S/H are now due. This year's dues premiums will be a reproduction of the UIMs (Unit Identification Markers) worn on the right shoulder of the enlisted dress uniforms and a 13 oz. clear glass stein with an imprint of the Association crest.



during the 1960s.

This picture shows how the reproduction (bottom) compares to the original ones worn on the uniforms



The Association crest will be a single color imprint on the stein.

In addition to the membership card (certificate and card for new members), we are including with the dues a copy of the 2000 Nitro crew member's directory (for new members). This is a listing of approximately 270 former crew members. It is updated each quarter and a new directory will be included with the September newsletter. This directory is for Association members ONLY! Association dues are valid for January 1 thru December 31 of that calendar year.

Anyone desiring to become a member of the USS NITRO Association may do so by sending a **check made payable for \$23.20** to:

USS NITRO Association
% Mr. Robert Peiffer
PO Box 1254
Mishawaka, Indiana 46546-1254

Nitro Membership Update

USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) Association membership continues to grow. Our membership roll now stands at 142. The following shipmates (Nitro tour dates) have signed on as members during the month indicated:

October 2000 – William Connor (71-73); Frank Motyka (43);

January 2001 – Tom Ewing (69-70); Jeffrey Marlow (69-71); George Miller (42-45); Raymond Gillman AE-24 & 25 (62-66); Richard Calbo (67-68); Walter Sitarski (67-71); Richard Faytak (70-73); Paul Leyden (89-94); Gary Daniel (68-69)

 *The Nitro Sage* - B. Gregory 

*Seen it all, done it all, can't remember most of it.
I feel like I'm diagonally parked in a parallel universe.*

 **NWS Earle to Continue Operations** 

The following are excerpts from the Asbury Park Press, NJ), 11/18/00, courtesy of Jim Musumeci, Jr.

Despite a proposal to relocate two of the four supply ships stationed at the Earle Naval Weapons Station, the Navy says the future of the base is secure.

Two proposals are under discussion. One would move the USS Detroit and USS Seattle to another home port. The second would be to staff the two remaining combat supply ships, the USS Arctic and USS Supply, with civilians instead of military personnel.

The base employs 2,575 military and 547 civilians and has a payroll of about \$30 million. According to Pallone, the four ships at Earle are among eight Navy supply ships that have not been shifted to civilian staffs.

Powers said, but ultimately, a decision that could seriously impact Monmouth County's economy will rest with the federal government. While the Navy has assured Holt and Pallone that the future of Earle is secure, three other ships from the Navy station have been transferred away from the base and staffed with civilian crews.

Pallone and Holt sent a letter to SecNav asking him to kill the proposal to transfer the Seattle and Detroit to Norfolk, Va., or another home port. The 30-year-old ships are to be decommissioned in three to five years.



A Final Thought



HAPPY 2001

This year we have had snow and cold for all of December. It reminds me of when the Nitro was stationed at Davisville, RI. From the pier to the public telephones was a long, cold walk. Some times I wondered if it was worth it. Usually there were a couple or three crew members ahead of you, and it seemed they took forever to get their call over. At least by the time they got done the telephone receiver was warm to your ear.

As stated earlier in the newsletter, it's time to renew your annual membership dues. If you have kept in touch with other crew members, please let them know about the Association and the reunions or let the officers know and we will contact them.

In some unit publications I have access to, they list members who have died or are ill and family members would like unit members to send cards, letters or phone calls to cheer them up. If this unfortunate event takes place, please contact any of the officers and we can post it in the "Crow's Nest" section of the "The Nitro Blast".

From my family to yours, have A Happy and Healthy New Year.

Nitro Blast Newsletter

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Address Correction Requested



USS Nitro Web Site



The place for frequent updates on the Nitro reunion,
association and other related activities:

**[http://ourworld.compuserve.com/
homepages/nalc820/ussnitro.htm](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/nalc820/ussnitro.htm)**