



Nitro Blast

The Newsletter of the
USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23)
Association
Volume 9, Issue 2
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Editor: Jim Timmons
Assn. Membership 280

"Hail to the  s"
Keep the Memories Alive

Our Nation's Capitol



The headquarters for the Nitro Association's 2007 reunion will be the Crowne Plaza - Dulles in Herndon, Virginia. This facility is very military friendly and has given us a very good group rate for three days

before, during and three days after the reunion. The reason I mention the "before and after" the reunion is because most of the hotels in and around Washington, DC (I visited 8 hotels in the Arlington and Dulles areas during my recent visit) have **major** jumps in their room rates from Sunday - Thursday due to all of the government and military business during the work week. I am sure you will enjoy your stay.

The Crowne Plaza - Dulles is near several restaurants and shopping, although you probably won't have much time to shop because of the list of activities we are planning.

The reunion will be from Thursday, 21 June through Sunday, 24 June 2007. The following paragraph covers the reservation process for the reunion.

We have reserved a block of rooms (a mixture of king and double bed) - 7 for Wednesday, 50 for Thursday night and 50 for Friday & Saturday night of the reunion. The special guestroom rate for the reunion is \$84/night plus tax. King, Queen double bed or Standard double-bedded rooms are available, with occupancy of up to four people per room.

Both smoking and non-smoking rooms are available as well as handicap rooms. **Anyone requiring special assistance should inform the hotel when making reservations.**

Each person will be responsible for making their reservations and may do so by calling the Crowne Plaza national reservation center at 800-227-6963 or the hotel at 703-471-6700. The Crowne Plaza should be ready to take our reservations as of the printing of this newsletter.

When placing your reservation for the 2007 reunion, let the reservation clerk know you want to reserve a room for the **USS Nitro Association** reunion for "x" number of nights. Your credit card will not be charged until you check out and you may cancel your reservations up to 6 PM (East Coast time) on your planned day of arrival. Additional room nights, before or after the reunion, may be made at our reunion group rate on an "as available" basis.

Below is a preliminary schedule for our reunion activities:
Wednesday, 20 June (optional day for tour)

Thursday, 21 June - Hospitality suite open afternoon and evening for crewmember check-in. Business meeting at 7 PM. The hotel is hosting a one-hour cheese and wine reception in the evening, prior to our business meeting.

Friday, 22 June - Tour of DC area, which could include Arlington National Cemetery, Memorials on the Washington Mall - (Vietnam, Korea, WW2, etc.). *Evening* - USMC 8th & 1st barracks Evening Parade (we are working on obtaining a group reservation for this Marine Corps tradition).

Saturday, 23 June - Navy Memorial wreath laying & plaque dedication (**see article below**). After the ceremony, we could continue with a tour of other Washington sites. *Evening* - Association dinner, raffle and auction.

◆◆ USS Nitro plaque at the Navy Memorial ◆◆

The USS Nitro Association Memorial Plaque dedication is scheduled to be held in conjunction with our wreath

ceremony at 1100, Saturday, 23 June. The plaque will be dedicated, in honor of the AE-2, AE-23 and the crews who served aboard these ships.



All Nitro Association members should have received a letter recently, which included a representation of the design we will be submitting to the Navy Memorial for their approval. If you did not receive this letter, please let us know and we will send another funding letter to you.

Nitro, WV museum Update

The Crow's Nest

In case anyone is having problems deciphering the headline for this quarter's newsletter. The interpretation of it would read "Hail to the Chiefs".

I would like to thank Ken Kemic for his invaluable help during my recent trip to Washington, DC.

Navy Times Article Recap

- 1) USS Enterprise conducting operations in Asia-Pacific region.
 - 2) Atlantic Fleet gets first female fleet-level Master Chief. CMC badge to return to original size and uniform location.
 - 3) Big question over Chinese Navy desire to have aircraft carriers.
 - 4) US guidelines for prosecution of terrorists similar to UCMJ courts-martials.
 - 5) NAS Pascagoula closes in November.
 - 6) Military recruiting tactics under investigation. Violations for misleading statements and sexual misconduct/ inappropriate conduct on the uprise.
 - 7) Enlisted whites and blues next on Navy "make-over" block.
 - 8) USNA midshipman acquitted of rape and on two lesser charges no punishment awarded.
 - 9) Navy & Marines help US citizens flee Lebanese war zones.
 - 10) More ships being sunk by Navy. Ammunition ship Butte was sunk last June.
 - 11) BMMC, diver, Carl Brashear who was subject of movie "Men of Honor" has died at age 75.
 - 12) Hospital ship Hope treats thousands in SE Asia.
- "Continuing Service to the Fleet"*

- 13) Navy names two latest auxiliary ships (dry cargo/ammunition). The ships are the Richard E. Byrd (T-AKE-4) and Robert E. Peary (T-AKE-5).
- 14) Minesweepers and crews fail readiness tests in Persian Gulf.
- 15) F-14 ends carrier Naval service.
- 16) Enlisted Expeditionary Warfare Specialist pin qualification program under study. New Navy and Marine Corps. Awards manual now available.
- 17) Congressmen attempting to revive Cold War medal, which would be available for military personnel serving from S/2/45 to 12/26/91.
- 18) Navy Seal posthumously awarded Silver Star for valor in Iraq and two others awarded Navy Crosses for valor in Afghanistan.
- 19) Navy setting tough new rules on drinking.
- 20) Navy expands presence in African waters.
- 21) Russian divers find sunken WW2 US submarine Wahoo in La Perouse Strait.
- 21) Great Lakes Hospital medical care to be transferred to VA hospital.
- 22) Former cruiser Des Moines on way to scrapyard.
- 23) Navy encouraging more officer and enlisted to take individual assignments in war zone as way to enhance advance, duty station selection, etc.
- 24) More inshore and land based units are seen in Navy of the future.
- 24) Navy projection of 313 ship fleet not feasible because of shipbuilding costs and inability of Navy to define future conflicts (Chinese or smaller conflicts).
- 25) New "Wounded Warrior Center" in CA helps Marines heal.
- 26) LST 325 now museum ship in Evansville, IN.
- 27) Navy charges FTC3 in spying case.
- 28) Navy riverine units to relieve Marine units in Iraq early next year.
- 29) Supply ratings may be consolidated from 4 to 2.
- 30) Former USS Cole skipper dropped from promotion list cited as "not qualified".
- 31) Military scholarships for medical students being left unfilled because of war.
- 32) USAF considering awarding ribbon for ground combat.
- 33) Congress slashes "brain-injury" research. VFW raises objections.
- 34) Afghans protecting opium crops (read cash-stream) seen as a major reason for escalating violence.
- 35) **Oops!** Coastie photo used by Navy in printed advertisement.
- 36) New destroyer to bear name of VADM Samuel Gravely, the first black flag officer.
- 37) NAVSTA Keflavik, Iceland closes.
- 38) DOD recommending consolidating medical commands from all branches into single command. USAF has major objections.
- 39) VFW considers smoking ban to attract new members.
- 40) USCG request for live-fire zones on Great Lakes faces opposition.
- 42) 2.2% military "all ranks" pay raise is the lowest in 12 years.
- 43) 2007 defense appropriation budget to push "war" costs to over \$500 billion.
- 44) Navy officer dismissed from service after being found guilty of desertion.
- 45) CNO calls for "1,000 ship Navy" comprised of international navies to fight global war on terrorism and other maritime issues.

- 46) First Littoral Combat Ship, USS Freedom, christened.
- 47) USCG investigating mysterious deaths of 2 divers in Arctic waters. Cutter skipper relieved of command.
- 48) Carrier, JFK, to be decommissioned in 2007.
- 49) Aircraft carrier, George H. W. Bush, christened.
- 50) Navy female sailor bronze statue is newest addition to the "Lone Sailor" statue collection.
- 51) Navy Corpsman to testify against Marines involved in deaths of Iraqi civilians, in exchange for plea agreement.
- 52) Navy reassigns chaplains from small combat ships to shore billets.
- 53) New working uniform to go fleet-wide in FY 08.
- 54) All branches of military achieve active duty recruiting goals. Reserve recruitment falls far short.
- 55) Navy reviewing inclusion of elliptical machines as part of new PT requirements.
- 56) FDA approval of anthrax serum makes vaccination mandatory.



Prepaid Military Phone Cards



Military prepaid phone cards are still available to be sent to relatives or neighbors who are serving in either Operation Iraqi Freedom or Afghanistan. Please send us their APO or FPO address and tell us whether the person is serving ashore or afloat.



Chaplain's

Corner



Chaplain corner article is on sabbatical this quarter.



TAPS



The listing(s) are of former USS Nitro (AE-2) or (AE-23) crew members, which we have received since our last posting:

Norman Bauerfeind, LT, (AE-2) 43-45; Roy Ostiguy, FTG3, (AE-23) 70-74



Nitro Membership Update



USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) Association membership continues to grow. ***Our membership roll (cumulative total from '98 to present) now stands at 280.*** The following shipmates (Nitro tour dates) have signed on as members during the month indicated:

~ None for the quarter ~

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

USS NITRO Association

% Mr. Robert Peiffer

PO Box 1254

Mishawaka, Indiana 46546-1254

"Continuing Service to the Fleet"

2006 Association Dues are \$24.15 (including S/H of Assn. Packet). The dues packet includes a high quality Nitro Association cloisonné lapel pin, quarterly newsletters, membership certificate (for **new** members only), crewmembers directory and a laminated membership card.

There are also Associated Membership dues available for spouses of former or deceased USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) crew members, children of former or deceased crew members or for any former U. S. Navy personnel having an interest in or desire to join the USS Nitro Association. This classification would allow those members to receive a membership certificate & card and 4 quarterly newsletters each year (***dues premiums and crewmember directory are not included in this classification.***) The cost of the Associate Membership will be \$14.20 (\$12.50 dues + \$1.70 S/H) per calendar year.



The Nitro Sage



"You know you're a Sailor when . . ."

You have a Bluejacket's Manual on the shelf of your personal library.

You tell the waitress at Denny's you'll have the S - - on a Shingle.



A Final Thought



The days are growing shorter and colder, trees are barren of leaves, stores decked out for the Holidays, and Christmas music plays in the background, so it must be that time of the year. Remember the messages from the Navy big wigs wishing the men and women all the best for the Holidays in the Plan of the Day?

On Veterans Day 2006, Jerry Satterfield, Harold Cook of the USS Pyro AE-1 and myself were the subject of an article as we served aboard the "unknown" ammunition ships. The general public does not know that such ships even exist since the AEs were not the "glory ships" that took the fight to the enemy. It's up to us to get the word out, be it newspaper or TV interviews.

Plans for the East Coast, Washington, DC reunion, are coming along. I believe the wreath and plaque ceremony at the Navy Memorial will be the highlight of this event. Again, I will try to post a notice in your local paper if you send me the snail mail address or the e-mail address. Let's get the word out for what should be the largest gathering of USS Nitro crewmembers.

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For the other officers, their families and me and my clan,
we wish you all the best for the up coming Holiday Season.

*Please remember our service personnel who man-the-
watch in your thoughts and prayers.*

Fair winds and following seas,
Bob Eberlein, Founder, USS Nitro Association.

OCT/NOV 2006



USS Nitro Web Site



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

<http://www.ussnitro.org>