

# VP-1 POPs



## PatRon One P-3 Orion Pioneers

NEWSLETTER #12

OCTOBER 2002

### ALOHA to all VP-1 P-3 Orion Pioneers —

I'll begin this issue of our newsletter with a hearty **WELCOME ABOARD** to those who have recently joined our VP-1 POPs group. Our newest VP-1 P-3 Orion Pioneers are: Dave **BLASKO**; Bob **BROWN**; Charles & Michele **DeBLIECK**; John & Floretta **DRIVER**; Gary & Jan **ETHERIDGE**; Patti **FERRIS** (Dick's widow); RobRoy & Marsha **GRAHAM**; Jerry & Ruth **GRiffin**; Randall & Gloria **HALLAS**; Don & Deanna **HALLWACHS**; Steve & Marlene **HEDRICK**; Quent & Glenice **HENDERSON**; Cliff & Betty **HENSEN**; Paul **HOUTCHEWS**; Jack & Cristina **JOHNSON**; Ed & Catherine **McLAUGHLIN**; Bill & Glenda **MONROE**; Dennis & Christine **SIKORSKI**; Harry & Sharon **VAUGHN**; Bob & Penny **WAGNER**; Mike **WAGNER**; John & Caroline **WALTERS**; Scott & Letitia **WILDE**; and Allan & Ellen **WILLIAMS**. As of this writing (late September) we have 253 members of our elite little organization. Alas, 31 of these 253 are lapsed members that haven't yet paid their dues for this biennium of 2002-2003. More on that later . . .

Before I go on further, I want to apologize for this newsletter being late. It should have been on the street already. I've had some problems with equipment — computer, scanner, etc. — but the main problem is that there are only seven 24-hour days per week. Not enough!

### **P-3 Orions Play Prominent Role In Afghanistan**

By Rowan Scarborough, The Washington Times

Contributed by Ken **WILLIAMS** and "Mac" **McCOMAS**

A lumbering Navy airplane first designed to scan the oceans for Soviet submarines played an unlikely pivotal role over the sharp ridges of eastern Afghanistan in the war's largest land battle.

The four-engine P-3 Orion carried Navy SEAL commandos who radioed descriptions of the enemy to fellow special operations troops fighting in the Shah-e-Kot valley down below. "They told them, 'There's a vehicle coming in your direction,' and our guys were able to set up ambushes," said a military officer, describing the numerous sorties these *Orions* flew before and during the 20-day Operation Anaconda that ended March 19<sup>th</sup>.

The land-based P-3 also pinpointed enemy fighters and heated cave hide-outs through its thermal-sensitive infrared camera. The coordinates were relayed to ground forces as well as jet fighters and heavy bombers.

"It's new for the P-3 to be involved in strikes like that," said the senior military officer, who — like other sources — discussed the P-3's prominent role on the condition of anonymity.

Deploying the sea-searching patrol planes for mountain warfare in a landlocked country is another example of how the U.S. military is finding different ways to fight an unconventional enemy: Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda fighters. Green Berets ride on horseback with Afghan tribal fighters. Strike fighter pilots "skip" bombs off Afghanistan's arid hard ground to penetrate a cave entrance. The carrier Kitty Hawk becomes an airfield for helicopter-borne special operations troops. And a submarine-hunting P-3 is now a soldier's best friend.

"It wasn't uncommon for the P-3 crew to hear, 'Can you look over the next hill for me?'" said another military source.

While the pilot-less Predator spy plane has drawn the most media attention, the turboprop P-3 has emerged as special operations troops' favorite surveillance asset during this war. The 116-foot-long plane, designed in the 1950s and since upgraded with sophisticated sensors, filled a gap in wartime intelligence collections.

Satellite photos were of limited use in Operation Anaconda. The resolution could not convey the steep inclines of planned helicopter landing zones, two officers said.

In the previous major ground battle at Tora Bora, al Qaeda found out how their short-range radio and cell phone communications could tip off coalition forces. At Shah-e-Kot, the assembling al Qaeda of perhaps 500 to 800 fighters largely maintained radio silence.

The Predator has limits, too. The unarmed, Air Force-operated drones sent multiple pictures via the Global Broadcast System to various command centers, including Anaconda headquarters at Bagram, north of Kabul, and to Tampa, Fla., headquarters of U.S. Central Command. The live video, which some officers dub "pay per view," is not available to troops doing the actual fighting, however.

Enter the P-3, an airframe design based on Lockheed's L188 Electra commercial airliner of the 1950s. Through its 1990s "Tactical Common Data Link," commanders could see what the P-3 crew saw. "Predator pictures are for the generals," said one officer. "P-3's link straight to the ground. The guys on the ground below can see what the P-3 crew sees."

The P-3s, which stayed just above the reach of shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, alerted commandos and infantry that the enemy was near.

One officer likened al Qaeda to the Japanese warriors of World War II who would rather fight to the death than become prisoners. "Al Qaeda are not particularly skilled fighters, but anybody who is willing to die is a challenge," the officer said. "There were a lot more than we thought at Shah-e-Kot. We thought there was going to be light resistance."

Another officer involved in Anaconda described al Qaeda battle tactics this way: "The enemy is well-motivated but not well-trained. Once we either blow up their first string mortars or force them to displace from known positions, they become ineffective as they don't have the training to use their mortars from an unknown spot where they haven't [calibrated] their fire. Anytime they try to do this from a new spot, we are on them. Mortars leave a big thermal signature — and they then become toast."

Some of the best intelligence on Anaconda came from human sources, the officers said.

As the al Qaeda warriors reorganized in Shah-e-Kot, south of Gardez, they dispatched runners into nearby villages for supplies. CIA paramilitary officers and American commandos were also in the area and collected information about the visitors from local villagers.

"If there is any lesson from strategic intelligence's role, it's that a satellite hasn't been invented that can replace the man on the ground," one officer said.

A Navy spokesman at the Pentagon declined to say how many P-3s were operating in the Afghan theater or to disclose their home bases. "They are operating in the region," the spokesman said.

The Navy deploys four P-3 squadrons of about eight planes each in the Pacific and European regions.

## ELDERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TRICARE-FOR-LIFE

Contributed by ATCS Jerry THORNBURG

You can help reach out to some of America's greatest generation. Our older military service retirees, their family members, and/or survivors. Some of these folks don't know that they are now eligible for DoD's comprehensive Tricare-for-Life (TFL) medical and pharmacy benefits.

Implemented last October, TFL provides wraparound coverage to elder military retirees and their spouses (or widows) who are on Medicare. It provides them with medical coverage and benefits that are unparalleled in our nation's health care history.

Yet some of these eligible beneficiaries continue to be without adequate coverage, or are paying big bucks for unnecessary health insurance, because they don't know they are entitled to TFL. Some, particularly widows residing away from military installations, have not renewed their military identification cards or updated their eligibility information with DEERS in years.

This is an important message to get out. It could significantly improve the quality of someone's life. Please help spread the word. Smaller weekly newspapers, senior center bulletins, and veterans group bulletins and newsletters are great ways to get the word out. I'll bet you can think of many others.

Need more dope? The Retired Officers Association has an excellent web site containing just about all information one could desire concerning Tricare-for-Life. Get on the internet and send your browser to "HTTP://CAPWIZ.COM/TFL/INDEX.HTML".

### P-3 FLIGHT TIME

from the NAS Whidbey Island *Crosswind*

Last November 17<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 0420Z, during flight operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, AEC Gerald Rey-

nolds recorded his 10,000<sup>th</sup> flight hour aboard a P-3 Orion aircraft.

"That's a long time in the air", Reynolds stated, "about 13½ months". Chief Reynolds, born in 1956, enlisted in the Navy in January 1981. After recruit training at Great Lakes he completed "A" school at Memphis. Then he attended both the Naval Aircrew School and the Electronic Warfare School at Pensacola.

After completing training he was sent for duty with the VQ-2 "Dons" at Rota, Spain. There he began logging his P-3 flight time.

After his tour with VQ-2 Reynolds went to VP-30 for Flight Engineer School, then on to VP-1 for duty as a P-3 flight engineer. After VP-1 he remained at Barbers Point for a tour with VPU-2, a P-3 Utility Squadron. Then it was off to VP-30 again, only this time as an instructor. After completing his tour as an instructor he traveled to NAS Whidbey Island for duty with the VP-46 *Grey Knights*.

Completing his VP-46 duty tour Reynolds next moved across the hangar at NAS Whidbey Island to VQ-1, where he's currently flying in the EP-3s.

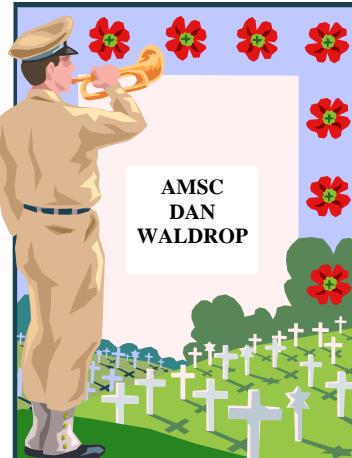
"My crew really took care of me after we landed", said Chief Reynolds. "We had champagne and cake, much of which I wore".

Both his squadron and the Lockheed-Martin Corporation presented Reynolds with awards honoring his airborne achievement.

(*I wonder if that's a first – 10,000 flight hours in only one type of aircraft. Any comments, guys? editor.*)

**DidJaNo** — Previous publishing and distribution of our newsletters cost the VP-1 POPs treasury approximately \$1.24 per person. The actual average cost of our last five newsletters was \$1.238 per head. With the postage rate recently increased by three cents our newsletter cost will go up significantly. Costs of the other things involved, such as paper, printer ink, duplication, stickers, etc., also seems to be always on the rise.

It's with great sorrow that I must report that our friend and squadron-mate Dan Waldrop passed away at his home in Jacksonville, Florida on August 23, 2002. Dan will be remembered as a good shipmate and the friendly flight engineer of crew-11. After retiring from Naval Service Dan went on to work for the Navy as a civilian corrosion expert and as a planner and estimator. He and his wife, Serina, flew all the way from Japan, (Dan was employed at NAF Atsugi, at the time), to attend our Pensacola reunion in May 2000. Dan and Serina relocated to Jacksonville, Florida, about a year later. He retired from government service at the end of 2001. Our condolences go out to Serina. We hope she'll continue her affiliation with the VP-1 P-3 Orion Pioneers.



## NEWS FROM OUR SQUADRON-MATES

**ADJ1 Dave BLASKO** (3/15) – Enclosed is a check for my membership in VP-1 POPs. Back from my trip to Michigan now, but it has taken me three weeks to wade through my mail and phone messages. Very happy to hear from Bob Giddings and Don Grove

about the VP-1 P-3 Orion Pioneers. After transferring from VP-1 I served a tour at NAMTD 1012 instructing flight engineer ground courses on P-3 systems. Transferred later to the Naval Military Personnel Command (NMPC) where I served until retirement. I left Naval Service in December 1984 as an AFCM. Following retirement I went to work for some Beltway Bandits until mid-1995, when Sandy and I retired to the East Texas piney woods to be near our children. My wife, Sandy, passed away two years ago. I'm now working at Marquis Messengers as a branch manager.



Joy & AT3 Cotton **BURDEN** (5/24) – It was good to see Paul Johnston's roll call on the Goose's crew in the last newsletter. But, he didn't mention that this elite crew was also the best basketball team in the squadron. We literally brought down the hoop in a spirited Cocos Island game — a contest played under the lights. A new hoop accompanied the next crew to visit there.

Linda & AW1 Mike **CALLIHAN** (4/2) – We enjoy the newsletter immensely. We've finally relocated back to Colorado and are temporarily residing in Grand Junction. If Bill Monroe doesn't soon pay his dues let us know — we'll lean on him. We hope to encourage the Monroes down to Memphis for the big gathering in 2003.

Lynda & Lt. Spence **CLOSSON** (4/2) – Thanks for all the good work you're doing for our group. I have really enjoyed the newsletters. I can't believe my retirement is just around the corner. (*Spence is a PPC [Passenger Plane Commander] for Delta Airlines, operating out of Cincinnati.*) I age-out a year from this coming June. The problem with that is, I still haven't figured out what I want to do when I grow up!

June & Cdr. "Tex" **COLEMAN** (3/22) – Enclosed are our dues. Thanks for doing a great job with the newsletter. We're both looking forward to the Memphis Muster.

Pam & ATN3 John **COY** (3/19) – Here's our dues, along with a little extra to help defray costs.

Michele & AX3 Chuck **DeBLIECK** (7/28) – I spent most of my VP-1 days repairing electronic gear at AIMD. I went on one flight in a squadron aircraft and was air sick the entire time. After that I believe everyone figured that I was better off, and so were they, if I stayed at the repair shop. After three years in VP-1 I left the Navy in the spring of 1971. I worked building construction for several months, then enrolled at St. Cloud University. I left



Chuck & Michele (center) at a grandchild's baptism

there with a BS in Engineering Technology and went to work for Rockwell Collins. I'm still there as a Senior Director for Engineering Services. My wife is employed there also. Our daughter, Nicole, who was born while we were deployed to Iwakuni, is now married and has children of her own. She is a ceramics engineer and also works full time at Rockwell Collins, as does her husband, Andy. Our youngest son, Ryan is a software engineer at Rockwell Collins. A family affair, you say? Our other son, Rob, works in Chicago as a Materials Specialist Engineer. Now that all three kids have completed college we're beginning to think of retirement (probably 5 to 7 years). Toward that end we're planning to build a new house on a river about 45 miles north of our current place. Looking forward to the VP-1 POPs reunion. Thanks for your efforts to locate and contact us.

Patti **FERRIS** (widow of AW1 Dick Ferris) (7-21) – Here's my

check, thanks for the update. With a computer now it should be easier keeping tabs on things in the future. I love this e-mail thing! I really wanted to attend the Pensacola reunion, but had to work. Still trying to find the ends. One of these days I'll make them meet. Sure looking forward to seeing everyone again. I had a blast at the Northwest reunion picnic at Rich and Ruth Hunt's place back in '97.

Mary & Lt. Paul **FREUDENTHAL** (3/15) – Sorry we couldn't attend the Pensacola reunion but our school district was tight with approving leave requests at the end of the school year. Since that last reunion I've reverted to substitute status and Mary plans to retire in a couple of weeks. We hope to soon be firmly entrenched in the "no job, no kids, no money" lifestyle. We're planning a trip to Florida for fun, and to visit relatives in Atlanta. The upcoming *Memphis Muster* will fit nicely into those plans.



Susan & Cdr Cliff **FREUND** (3/15) – Don, thanks for another great newsletter. I particularly enjoyed Mike Taylor's "Barbie" story. Some of the details are a little vague in my memory, though. I guess the red haze behind my eyes while it was happening sort of dulled my remembrances. I do remember that I started out the day with a bad taste in my mouth because the station which was "supporting" us was making such a fuss over a project that was supposed to be for the good of our tenants (like the self help program, but that's another story for another day). Things did not get any better as the day wore on, as Mike correctly related. Also, I, like Bill Johnson, also cherish my squadron flag — even more now that I know how it came to be made. Sorry you are stepping down Don, you have done such a terrific job, but the rest has been well earned.

Janna & Lt. Greg **GARDNER** (3/14) – We're hoping to make that Memphis reunion.

Dorothy & Lt. Mark **GILSDORF** (4/4) – Here's our dues. Thought they were already paid. Must be the *half-ziemers* kicking in. I look forward to each issue of the newsletter. Thanks for putting it together.

ADCS Bob **GRAY** (4/8) – I was truly sorry I didn't get to Pensacola. I would like to have seen all the *Fleets Finest* old hands again. I'll try to get to Memphis next year. Gwen and I will always be indebted to Mary (*Grove*) and Tina (*Williams*) for meeting us when we arrived at Hawaii in the spring of 1971. They took us to get our paper work done for TLA, and then into an apartment. They took us to get groceries, and hauled us around to Barbers Point. Three days later, I was handed orders to report to the squadron in the Philippines. VP-1 had just completed their move from Sangley Point to Cubi Point. I spent two days at Cubi, then was on my way to CamRanh Bay. It was a wonderful welcome to Hawaii followed by a quick transition to VP-1 and detachment operations. The people in VP-1 were, and are, the best! Keep up the good work with our newsletter.

Gloria & ADJ2 Randall **HALLAS** (8/8) – Left VP-1 in 1971. Discharged from NAS North Island in '73 and moved to San Jose, CA. Met and married my wife, Gloria, there in 1974. We moved to Monte Rio, CA. In 1976 we bought a bar business at Santa Rosa, CA. In '78 we sold that business and I started working in a cabinet shop at Santa Rosa. We moved to our present location in Guerneville, CA., in 1980, and I opened my own cabinet shop, *ACCENT DESIGN CABINETRY*. Along the way we had a son and twin daughters. The twins graduated from college this year, and our son will finish next year.



Deanna & Lt. Don **HALLWACHS** – Left active duty in 1975 and then worked 25-years in flight simulators for Secor, Sperry, Unisys, Honeywell, Hughes, Raytheon, and L-3 Communications. Joined the Naval Reserve in '75 and spent six

years at Pax River flying P-3B's, then six years at NavAir flying a desk.

Myrna & ADJC Jim **HAMILTON** (3/16) – That was an excellent VP-1 POPs newsletter — and the use of pictures saved me the time I usually spend looking them up in the cruise book. I never updated my telephone area code with you when it changed. It's now 386. We leave the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month for an extended trip into and around Texas — all of it this time. Been planning this excursion for a month now, so it should go pretty well. We've been through the state many times, but not all around and crisscross it. I'll bet we get cabin fever in our motor home before we're done.

Glenice & PN1 Quent **HENDERSON** (3/16) – We left VP-1 and all our friends at Hawaii in June of 1972 and reported to BuPers, Washington, DC, where I was assigned as a Steward detailer. After a couple years I moved over to the DK/AK assignment section and became the detailer for the AK2 and below ratings. Then in January 1977 we transferred to VP-44 at Brunswick, Maine. I worked on the transition to the P3C Update II's, and made deployments to Bermuda and Keflavik. While at Keflavik I was selected for promotion to PNCS, but declined to extend for the obligated service requirement as I had decided it was time to change occupations. In April 1979, midway through that Iceland deployment, I transferred to the Fleet Reserve and returned home. I soon enrolled in New Hampshire college to work on my degree in Business, and perform duties as a house-spouse. That assignment lasted only five months. I quickly determined that I wasn't cut out to withstand the pressures of running a household. I sought gainful employment and was hired as an inventory clerk at a local building materials company drawing down the mind-boggling wage of \$3.65 per hour. Then one day I heard that an Admin Officer (civilian) position was opening at ComPatWingFive, NAS Brunswick. I applied, was hired, and was on my way to a second career. After seven years with the Wing I applied for a Management Analyst position at SUPSHIP, Bath, ME, a few miles up the road from NAS Brunswick. I was hired there and was again back with the "blackshoe" Navy, helping to get AEGIS cruisers and destroyers down the Kennebec River. I worked in the engineering department there for eleven years. Then in August 1998 I was selected to serve as the comptroller. Needless to say the past three years have been very interesting, have kept me busy, and in a travel status. I have tentatively set the date for my next retirement as 1-2-3 (2 Jan 03). Glenice and I have three children (the youngest is 33), and two grandsons (the youngest is 17). We'll celebrate our 37<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this coming November.

Anita & AMH1 Ken "K C" **HILL** (3/20) – Here's my dues, plus a little. I read with great interest President Hanson's article in our March newsletter about the P2V memorial project at Whidbey Island. Please ask Cdr. Hanson to keep us updated on this long-overdue memorial. Wish I was there to help with the work. We'll see you all in Memphis.

Didi & AT3 John "Bill" **HOLMAN** (6/28) – We're looking forward to the 2003 reunion. We had a great time at the Pensacola gathering. Thanks for all the work you and your wife do for the organization.

Joann & Lt(jg) Mike **HOLPUCH** (4/3) – Here are our dues. Keep up the good work. Really enjoy the VP-1 POPs newsletters. Will see 'ya in Memphis.

Lcdr Paul **HOUTCHENS** (7/25) – I'll be going into a Boston, Mass., hospital on July 29<sup>th</sup> for a 5<sup>th</sup> operation on my left hip. The hospital stay is expected to be about five days, and then three months in rehab at a nursing home. I hope to be back up and on the net by October.

ADR3 Sid **McCULLERS** (3/15) – I'm living in California these days, just north of San Diego. I left the Navy in '73 — came home

— went to school — married my high school sweetheart. Now, 25 years later, we have 5 children and 5 grandchildren. Among other changes, my hair is no longer red. In '97 I retired from the nuclear power plant where I'd been employed. I'm currently building a radio-controlled P2V-7 with a 108-inch wingspan. Eight years ago I built a full-size airplane, a two-seat RV6, tail dragger. It flies great. Makes about 200 mph on a good day.

 Amy & AT3 Jim **MILLIGAN** (3/26) – Here's our dues. Didn't realize we were late with them till we got the March newsletter. Hope all is well in the great Northwest. We're looking forward to the next reunion.

Gaudencia & AT3 Tom **MITCHELL** (3/19) – Enclosed is our check for continued membership in VP-1 POPs. I really enjoy the newsletter. It always brings back a fond memory or two. I particularly like the photos which are included.

Jane & AT1 Greg **PIERCE** (5/8) – Hi! Greg recently was elected Commander of our local American Legion Post here in Topsham, Maine. It keeps him quite busy as he's also the County Commander for our area. We're doing fine these days. Our youngest son, Matthew, and his wife, are in North Carolina, stationed at Ft Bragg with the 82nd. He is filling in as XO until the new one arrives in Sept. He's with the medical unit. They bought a house there and we're planning on a trip to visit them at Christmas time. Our oldest son, Dean, born in Hawaii, that most of you knew of, is out of the Air Force after a 4-year hitch, and is working in Administration at IBM with UNUM in Portland. He's into computers like his dad. Greg works for Bath Iron Works a few miles from Brunswick, ME — 3 years now as a data base administrator. He works with the Aegis cruiser program. I recently began working for a small local family-owned business, (machine shop), that makes parts and tools for the manufacture of lobster traps, etc. We want to say we really enjoy the VP-1 POPs newsletter, and reading about everyone from VP-1. We hope to make one of the reunions someday. We still keep in touch with the Hendersons here in Brunswick, and the Vlceks in Chicago. Enjoyed the update on Tom and Pat Skoblicki in the last newsletter, as we hadn't heard from them since they left Maine quite a few years ago.



Jane & Greg

Carol & AVCM Gene **POOLE** (6/19) – Gene had knee replacement surgery the first week of last June. Here's his recent report. The operation went great, but the anesthesia and other things caused a problem with my breathing so they had to put me back in intensive care. I was released from the hospital on June 8<sup>th</sup>, but on the 12<sup>th</sup>, as I was taking a shower, suddenly I couldn't breath. Carol called 911 and an ambulance took me back to the hospital. Because of the hot shower, and other problems, my blood pressure had dropped very low. I am going to therapy now and my knee is doing okay. When I've recovered from the knee surgery

(continued on page 7)

the medical folks are going to look into what seems like a blood problem. It's going to take time. (Gene's our "Ancient Mariner". He was the oldest VP-1 POPs member at our last reunion — older than Mardy Lewis — even older than ex-skipper Tex Coleman.)

Judy & AW1 Keith **PRITCHARD** (5/1) – We currently live on our 14-acre place near Toledo, WA, where we breed and show Doberman dogs. I drive a big-rig for a trucking company and am on the road a good bit of the time seeing all of the scenic, and some not so great, areas of our country. After leaving VP-1 in 1973 I did a tour of shore duty at FASOTRAGRUPAC, Moffett Field. Then a tour of duty with VP-19, followed by my last duty before retirement with ComPatWingTen. I retired from the Navy in November 1982 and

## YOUR VP-1 P-3 ORION PIONEERS OFFICERS

President — Don HANSON, 5130 N. Vaness Pl., Oak Harbor, WA 98277 (360) 240-0805 E-mail: DCHANSON@WHIDBEY.NET  
Vice President — Rich HUNT, P. O. Box 342, 413 Hemmi Rd., Bellingham, WA 98227 (360) 398-1696 E-mail: RRRNWESTCR@AOL.COM  
Secretary & Treasurer — Don GROVE, 2024 Briarwood Dr., Oak Harbor, WA 98277 (360) 679-6161 E-mail: VP1POPS@DIRECWAY.COM  
Newsletter Editor — Don GROVE — Alternate E-mail: DONGROVE@DIRECWAY.COM

## YOUR VP-1 P-3 ORION PIONEERS DELINQUENT (LAPSED) MEMBERS

We are ten months into our new membership biennium of 2002-2003. We currently have 222 paid-up members-in-good-standing. These 222 squadronmates of the 1969-1974 era have paid their membership dues for this two-year cycle. But, sorry to report, we still have 31 "lapsed members" — members from the previous 2000-2001 biennium that haven't yet paid their dues for this membership cycle. Their 90-day grace period for payment expired 30 March 2002. This will be the last newsletter these 31 delinquent squadronmates receive as they will soon be dropped from our active mailing list. I'll list their names below — if they're friends or neighbors of yours ask them why they haven't kept their membership up-to-date. On April 24<sup>th</sup> individual late notices were mailed to all those who hadn't paid as of 30 March. Many had been notified previously via e-mail. Since that mailing Bob Giddings has phoned quite a few of these delinquent members. We need to get these 31 folks back on board as members-in-good-standing. Any suggestions? Membership in our VP-1 P-3 Orion Pioneers costs one only \$15 for a two year period. That's just \$7.50 per year. A bargain in these times. Checks or money orders for dues should be made payable to "VP-1 POPs", and mailed to our treasurer at VP-1 POPs, C/o Don Grove, 2024 Briarwood Dr., Oak Harbor, WA 98277. If you know of someone who's experiencing tough times and can't afford the \$15 membership fee please let me, or one of our other officers, know. We'll take care of the problem one way or another. Following are the names of VP-1 POPs "lapsed members" — those that haven't yet paid 2002-2003 dues: Jack BERRY; John BOYD; John BYCZEK; Steve CARY; Jackie COBB; Lexie COBB; Lois (HINZ) DAUBE; Doug DEVINEY; Don ELOWER; Doug ELSTON; Stan FROS BUTTER; Vance GAY; Todd GILBERT; Ricky HUNTER; Dave KIASKI; Ron KLIMECKI; Mel KOSSEN; Cliff LEISINGER; Roland LILLYBLAD; Cliff LOY; Jorge "Pancho" MORALES; Walt MORSE; Peter OLSSON; Joe OSANI; Pat POTTER; Mike RELLO; Ed RISINGER; Rich SCHANTINI; Freddy SMART; Greg SMOCK; and John "J.B." WILLIAMS.

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES.** Don't forget to send in an article for the newsletter. Think of something odd, funny, or scary that happened to you, your buddies, your boss, your crew, whatever. Jot it down — send it in. There's hundreds of stories out there. Get 'em in here. Share your memories. Remember, truth is stranger than fiction. Nobody could make up some of these tales from the good old VP-1 days that you read in our newsletter. I depend on y'all to keep me stocked with articles for this little paper. One thing that's always interesting is a short bio of what's happened in your world since our days in VP-1. Where did you go; what did you do; what's up now; that kind of thing. Might not seem interesting to you, but to others who knew you, it is.

**NEWSLETTER PHOTOS.** We need pictures for our newsletter — both current photos and snapshots from the "good old days". Please send in your pictures. Those of you with computers and scanners can send them to me as an e-mail attachment. Others can send them to me via snail-mail. I'll scan them here at this end and send them back to you. Share you're old photos with the rest of the group. Doesn't cost anything except maybe a postage stamp. Be sure to send a current photo so we can see what you, you and your spouse or grandchildren or dog, whatever, look like today.

When Bob Giddings last spoke with Joe STEGMEIR (AW1 in VP-1) on the phone he found that Joe has serious diabetes and is wheel-chair bound. The residence address we have for him, though, is four years old and is no longer valid. Mail I've sent to him has been returned. If anyone out there knows Joe's mailing address please let us know. Bob G has phoned again, but Joe's phone isn't being answered.

Recently notified here that Zona Hill, Billy Hill's wife, who had been in the hospital with a serious illness, was back home and recuperating. Zona, we hope that by the time you read this you're well on your way to full recovery.

Word has also come in that Jerry GRIFFIN is battling serious medical problems. We're all pulling for you Jerry. Keep him in your prayers and drop him a card.

Welcome back — to some of our earlier, now reinstated members. These reinstated members are folks who were members-in-good-standing during the 1998-99 biennium that for some reason didn't pay their dues for the 2000-2001 period. But, they have now rejoined our group for the 2002-2003 membership cycle. Reinstated members are: AW1 Phil & Ann AUBERTINE; AE1 Dan & Margaret OYLER; Lt(jg) Gary & Melanie SPEES; Lt Fred & Chris WACHOWICZ; and AT2 Dave & Merlyn WHITE.

Many may remember Dan Oyler as an AE2 and those people may think there's a typo above concerning his rate. No error. Dan did two separate tours in VP-1 as a P-3 flight engineer, the first as an AE2 in 1969 and 1970. His second tour in the "Fleets Finest" was as an AE1 during the period 1974-77. He's eligible to be a VP-1 POPs member from both tours. Should he be required to pay double dues?

**E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGE** — A new e-mail address is in effect for the VP-1 P-3 Orion Pioneers' secretary and treasurer. For VP-1 POPs business please use **VP1POPS@DIRECWAY.COM**. (Note that there is no dash (-) between the VP and the 1). For personal correspondence to me please use **DONGROVE@DIRECWAY.COM**. If in doubt, don't fret. Messages sent to either address will get to me. E-mail messages announcing this address change were sent to all on our roster for whom we have (or had) e-mail addresses. Some of those messages were returned to me as undeliverable. E-mails to John & Barbara BOYD; John & Pam COY; and Tom & Gaudencia MITCHELL were returned as undeliverable. We'd appreciate input from anyone so that these squadronmate's e-mail addresses can be corrected in our association files.

**DidJaNo** — Of our current VP-1 POPs paid-up members-in-good-standing, 172 of them have e-mail capability. That's 77.5% of our members that can be contacted almost instantly. The round-trip for snail-mail normally takes about a week. Ain't electronics wonerful!

Received word from Jeff STINSON's sister that Jeff is now residing in a care facility. His address there is: *Texas Veterans Home, 1300 Seven Oaks Rd., Bonham, TX 85418*. Macular degeneration has taken away most of Jeff's ability to see, but he can get people at the facility to read for him. I'm sure he'd enjoy hearing from his old squadronmates. Chemotherapy has also taken away much of Jeff's get-up-and-go.

## CURRENT VP-1 P-3 ORION PIONEERS MEMBERSHIP

Jerry ADAIR; Jack ADAMS; Phil AUBERTINE; Jack BACHHOFER; Jeff BARCLAY; Marty BECKER; Gary BENNER; John BERGER; Dave BETZ; Dave BEVINGTON; Dave BALSKO; Gary BLOCKER; Ross BONNY; Gene BRENNAN; Bob BROWN; Tom BROWNING; Charlie BUDENZ; Al BURCHI; Cotton BURDEN; Mike CALLIHAN; Bruce CARPENTER; Ed CASHMAN; Tom CHAMBLISS; Ernie CHIUCCHI; Ron CLAGGETT; Spence CLOSSON; Mike COLE; James "Tex" COLEMAN; Frank CONKLE; Jim COOLEY; Bob COONS; John COY; Mike CREGER; Brian CRONYN; Doug CROWE; Bill CROWLEY; Ed DAYRITT; Chuck DeBLIECK; Mark DEICHERT; John DeTHOMAS; Bob DEVRIES; "Pete" DREES; John DRIVER; Judy DUDLEY; Donna DVORAK; Jim DVORAK; Jim ELLIOTT; Kay ERICKSON; Paul ESCHENFELDER; Gary ETHERIDGE; Patti FERRIS; Bill FIELDING; Fred FINK; Jack FORTE; Russ FREDRICK; Rob FREEDMAN; Paul FREUDENTHAL; Cliff FREUND; Don FRANKA; Bob FULLER; Ray FUNK; Charlie GARDINER; Greg GARDNER; "Kris" GARRICK; Mike GARRICK; Dan GARRISON; John GAUKEL; "Pat" GESLING; Bob GIDDINGS; Mark GILSDORF; Jon GILASION; Rocky GMEINER; Gus GOLDENPENNY; Robroy GRAHAM; Bob GRAY; Earl GREENMAN; Bob GREGOR; Jerry GRIFFIN; Jim GROMELSKI; Don GROVE; Ray GROVE; Denny GRUWELL; Dick HAGLUND; Randall HALLAS; Don HALLWACHS; Jim HAMILTON; Don HANSON; Joe HART; Jim HARVEY; Phil HAWKINS; Steve HEDRICK; Quent HENDERSON; Cliff HENSEN; Chuck HIGHTOWER; Billy HILL; Ken HILL; "Bill" HOLMAN; Mike HOLPUCH; Paul HOUTCHENS; "Bert" HOWARD; "Bill" HOWARD; Carson HUNT; Rich HUNT; George HUNTER; "Fooths" HUSTON; Bill JOHNSON; "Ben" JOHNSON; Gary JOHNSON; Jack JOHNSON; Paul JOHNSTON; John JUNK; C. K. KAUABI; Grant KEELER; Mike KELLEIGH; George KONETCHY; Bill LANSING; Dave LARSON; Jack LAUTENSCHLAGER; Jimmy LEE; Rob LERSCH; Mardy LEWIS; Steve LINN; Jim LUPER; Paul LUSK; Larry MANARO; Dave MARZOLA; Jim McALLISTER; "Mac" McCOMAS; Bob MCCOY; Jim McCREADY; Van McCULLOUGH; Bill McDONOUGH; Paul McFARLAND; Donn McKINNON; Ed McLAUGHLIN; John McLAURIN; Jim McNINCH; Mike McQUAID; Jim MELTON; Bob MILLER; Jim MILLIGAN; Tom MITCHELL; Bill MONROE; Ron MONTGOMERY; Paul MORASCH; Doug MURDOCK; Burt MYERS; Dave NASS; Bob NEDRY; Paul NULPH; Tom NUNNO; Bob OLIVER; Tom OLSON; Dan OYLER; Steve PALMER; Virgil PATTIN; Larry PERDUE; Johnny PEREZ; Reisse PERIN; Vic PESCE; Greg PIERCE; Gene POOLE; Keith PRITCHARD; Dave QUAYLE; Jim RADIGAN; Frank RAYNOR; Harry RECTOR; Barkley REED; Rick REIDHEAD; Larry RICKMAN; Curt ROBERTS; Rich RUNDLE; Gary RYAN; Rick SALAS; Dave SANDERS; Bill SARVER; "Jake" SCANLON; Don SEGUR; Ken SHERMAN; Dennis SIKORSKI; Tom SKOBICKI; Rob SKOGE; Don SMITH; Ward SMITH; Gary SPEES; Dave SRITE; Stu STEBBINGS; Jeff STINSON; Tom STRUTZ; Kingsley SUMNER; Don SWENDSEN; Ron SWITZER; Lou TAFOYA; Mike TAYLOR; John THOMLEY; Jerry THORNBURG; Dan TORFIN; Richard TOWNER; Dan TRUAX; Dan TURBEVILLE; Ron VANDERGRIFT; Tom VANDERHORST; Harry VAUGHN; Jerry VON RONNE; Fred WACHOWICZ; Bob WAGNER; Mike WAGNER; Sina WALDROP; John WALTERS III; Rick WATSON; Don WAUGH; "Lance" WEDELL; Dave WHITE; Dennis WHITE; Scott WILDE; Allan WILLIAMS; Ed "Willie" WILLIAMS; Ken WILLIAMS; Dave WITT; Jim WOOTEN; Charlie YOUNG; and Mike ZINS. (If your old VP-1 pal isn't listed above, give him a call — find out why?)

**Business Meeting** — at our 2003 reunion, the *MEMPHIS MUSTER*, after we gobble down the Sunday morning repast that Mike Taylor's organizing for us, we'll hold our general business meeting. There are some important items to be covered at this meeting, such as: amending/ratifying our VP-1 POPs by-laws; election of officers; deciding whether to hold our reunions every two or every three years; determining where and when to have our next reunion; appointing a chairman for that next reunion; deciding on motions made and seconded by members; and taking care of any other business needing attention.

Please give this meeting some thought between now and the great 2003 gathering. Particularly, whom you'd like to have as your officers for the next term. We'll be electing a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The office of secretary and treasurer can be combined and held by one person. The newly elected president will need to appoint committee chairmen, such as: membership chairman, newsletter editor and publisher; finance committee; and a chairman for hosting the next reunion. Be ready to volunteer your time and talents for the good of the organization. Without good people to steer the ship we may run aground. I don't think any of us want to see the VP-1 P-3 Orion Pioneers go defunct due to lack of interest or effort.

I won't accept a nomination for any office or accept any committee appointments for the next term. I'm just about burned-out, and need some time away from the grindstone. I've been holding down the secretary and treasurer slots since back in 1997; have been the newsletter editor and publisher since 1998; and have also been functioning as the membership chairman. Enough is enough! Turn me loose for awhile. I need to be put out to pasture so I can bask in the sun and rejuvenate.

We'll need some members who'll take an active part in the operation of our organization. Don't ask what VP-1 POPs can do for you, but ask what can you do for VP-1 POPs. We have a great group. Let's not

let it wither away! Stand up and be counted. Make a difference!

**Rosters** — Our roster now contains 494 entries. This includes 222 paid-up members and the known 63 deceased ex-squadronmates. Our roster indicates which are paid-up members, and those that aren't. Copies of our current roster may be procured through me, your secretary. If you have e-mail capability I can send you a copy as an e-mail attachment, free-of-charge. VP-1 POPs incurs no expense this way. You can then transfer it over to your word processing program and have the roster on your computer for reference at any time. It's very easy to make changes to it once it's in your computer, and you can print-out a copy whenever desired. If you'd like a printed copy of our roster mailed to you send in \$1.25 and I'll get one off to you. This charge covers the cost of duplicating and mailing a roster to you.

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN

by Christopher Ready, VP-1 Reporter

In May of this year the men and women of Patrol Squadron ONE again bid farewell to family and friends and headed into the sunset for another deployment. During this deployment the Screaming Eagles are under the operational control of Commander, Fifth Fleet, and are operating from advanced bases in Diego Garcia, Oman, Bahrain, and a few other lesser known oases. (*No Cubi Point? No Cam Ranh Bay?*)

VP-1 has attained new highs in combat readiness, with a heightened proficiency in employment of SLAM missiles, and, with the latest sensors on-board, for increased Anti-Submarine and Anti-Surface Warfare capabilities.

AM2 Rick Quade said that he's eager to join the efforts of the American military in the Middle East. "I've been on deployments before, but this will be my first chance to participate in an armed conflict," he

returned to Washington State where I met and married Judy. We raised Appaloosa horses for awhile — till Judy's knees began bothering her and she could no longer handle them. Then we tried raising Rattites (rheas, emus, and ostriches). It wasn't long before the bottom fell out of that market. So now we raise dogs, and I run the road. *Keith checked-in again by phone on June 20<sup>th</sup>. He said everything was going well. He was in his big-rig motoring along in the vicinity of Sacramento, California, hauling a load of ice cream. I asked him to save some for me.*

Eleanor & Lt. Jim **RADIGAN** (3/19) — Here are our dues — see you at Memphis.

Mary Jo & YN2 Barkley "Buddy" **REED** (4/3) — Enclosed is our check for dues. I thought I'd let everyone know what I'm up to these days. I was a member of PatRon ONE from December 1973 until December 1975. After leaving VP-1 I reported to NAS Whidbey Island for duty. Then, for the rest of my career, except the final two years (I retired in December 1994), I was at either San Diego or in the Whidbey Island area. My final tour was at Fallon, Nevada. For a blackshoe "YN" I spent a good deal of time with "airdales". After leaving Naval Service I attended George Fox University at Newberg, Oregon, obtaining a BA in human resources. Mary Jo, my wife, and I now reside at Oregon City, Oregon. I'm working with the Oregon State Employment Department, serving as a Disabled Veterans Specialist.

Martha & ADJ1 Larry **RICKMAN** (3/23) — Don, I was attached to VP-1 when back they flew the P2V's. A friend, ADR2 Randy Vedros, was killed at Saigon in 1966. Enclosed is a check for our dues. Keep up the great work.

Gail & Lt Rick **REIDHEAD** (6/26) — Recently received a message on my answering machine from Bob "The Enforcer" Giddings concerning the delinquent status of my VP-1 POPs dues. Hence I'm hurriedly sending you a check. The message was a bit garbled but I think he mentioned something about my health, as though it might soon take an unexpected change for the worse. Then again, at our age nothing seems to take an unexpected change for the better. Anyway, I'm easily intimidated. The extra money is really just a way to get out of trouble. Hope it works!

Lt(jg) Gary **RYAN** — Having read the latest VP-1 POPs newsletter and finding out so much about all of you, I decided it's about my time to contribute. So many years have passed since I showed up at Barbers Point as an Ensign in 1972. If I remember correctly, when I left in 1975 I made the statement "I would rather sell apples on a street corner than stay in the Navy". The things we say when we are young and idealistic. I never did sell apples, and actually I have had a wonderful career as a civilian. The irony is that I am now an advisor to a two star admiral at Naval Air Station, Fallon, Nevada, and sometimes I think I'm back in the Navy, but mature enough to enjoy it (being a civilian also helps). Most important, and the real reason I am writing this is that I now find myself remembering my years with VP-1 as some of my most enjoyable. Some of you know what I have been up to through Christmas cards, others I can only vaguely remember — still I enjoy every word I read in our newsletters. One more thing, as an old P-3 NFO being here at the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center isn't easy. The sun still rises and sets in the egos of the jet jocks (although I doubt if they have much teakwood furniture). The P-3 folk still rate above helicopter pilots, though.

AOC John "Jake" **SCANLON** (5/16) — After four years with "The Fleet's Finest" I left for shore duty at MCAS Yuma, AZ, where I served for three years as Armament Repair Work Center Chief. Liberty was so good I wound up divorced. Then orders back to the Point — VP-22 this time. But, enroute I failed the Maintenance Swim at FASO North Is. It was determined that I should go through the Naval Air Combat Crewman school at Pensacola. It was there that I finally

learned how to swim, after 15 years in the Navy, 12 of them as an aircrewman. Arrived at VP-22 where I worked, partied, flew, partied, NTPI'd, CWTPI'd, and partied some more. After three years of that I took shore duty orders to VX-4 at Point Mugu. They had lots of little noisy airplanes there: a couple A-4's; half-a-dozen F-4's; and many, many F-14's and F-18's. Liberty was so bad I got married again — then divorced again. I made Senior Chief there, then retired from active Naval Service in 1987. Started my civilian career working for a "beltway bandit", west coast edition. Lasted 10 years. I actually managed to get a training assignment on board a carrier, the Teddy Roosevelt, teaching weapons inspection and assembly procedures for the SLAM and Maverick missiles to the "G" Division guys. The company lost the "big" contract and I got laid off. Worked for three other BWB's over the next five years, then finally settled-in (I hope) working in Southern California as a civil service logistics specialist at the Naval Air Warfare Center, Weapons Division, HARM Logistics Office. Over the years I've raised two pythons to 13+ feet and over 160 lbs. Also, more rattlers than I can remember, one cotton-mouth, one copperhead, a numerous assortment of non-venomous snakes, some scorpions, and some spiders. What fun! I own three street bikes — two Harley Sportsters (an old iron head, and a newer evolution), and a Honda 400 Custom. I enjoy riding them.

Donna & PR3 Don **SMITH** (5/4) — We're living in a foothill community in central California by the Sequoia National Forest. Its a bit east of Porterville and Lake Success. I recently got my certification as a scuba diver. For quite some time I've enjoyed black powder hunting with a muzzle loader. My trade these days is restoring antiques. Quite a change from rigging parachutes and survival equipment. I operate *Full Circle Antique Restoration* here at Springville. I'm also active in our Springville VFW Post, having served as the Post Quartermaster for the past 10 years. My wife and two children all have their college degrees, so our family are all college grads except me, the "working man". One of the lasting memories of my tour in VP-1 was going along with the crew that flew one of our P-3's to Australia on our way back home from a Philippine deployment. We wound up doing an engine change at Richmond Air Base outside of Sidney.

Laurel & Lcdr Dave **SRITE** (3/19) — Laurel and I have Memphis 2003 up on our screen. We enjoy the newsletters.

Jan & Lt. Tom **STRUTZ** (5/18) — Don, I changed my e-mail address. Sorry for the inconvenience. My computer has been messed up for way too long. We ordered a new one today. I was waiting to hear, "Dude, you're getting a Dell", but it didn't happen. I don't know how that will affect my e-mail address. I'll try to keep you informed.

Ruth & AW2 Kingsley **SUMNER** (3/30) — The newsletter is wonderful! I really enjoy reading it. Also enjoyed talking to Bob Giddings on the phone. A fine guy.

Jane & AOC Lou **TAFOYA** (7/6) — Finally getting around to sending my membership dues. Sorry for the delay. Jane is holding her own, but as yet she isn't improving. They say she has an illness whereby her own cells are attacking her lungs and scaring them. She can't do too much. I have a full-time job keeping up with everything.

Sharon & Lcdr Harry **VAUGHN** — Retired from the Navy in June '79. Went to work as a senior engineer at GTE-Sylvania, Mountain View, CA. After six months pushing a pencil doing "creative writing" I said "no way", and got a job driving Santa Clara County Transit buses for 15 years. Retired from that in 1996. Sold the home in Sunnyvale and spent a year traveling around the country in a motor home. Purchased our current home in Aptos, CA., (Seacliff Beach area) in April 1998. I lost my previous wife Grace to cancer in 1993. Sharon, my present wife, and I were married in October 1994.

Chris & Lt. Fred **WACHOWICZ** (5/28) — All is well on the Polish front! Chris and I recently returned from a couple weeks on Kauai. I

found a golf instructor there that finally helped me to break the secret code. While engaged in these endeavors, Chris enjoyed the lounge chair by the pool and kept the local bookstores in the black. From the air we could see much development around the Barbers Point area. Marriott is building a new beach resort just north of the former air station.



Harry & eldest daughter

We did see a P-3 from Kanoehue shooting tough-and-gos at Lihue. Keep your eyes on the next Americas Cup sailboat race as we have a Wachowicz (son Matt) on the sailing team for Oracle Racing. They're living in Auckland in order to be prepared for the race which starts in October. Daughter Kelly has joined a New York City Redevelopment Agency as their strategic planning leader.

She is involved with a number of projects, including the World Trade Center redevelopment. Remaining son Brian was married almost two years ago and now works for Franklin Templeton in the Bay Area. His father-in-law is a retired Marine Colonel — I'm now getting regular instruction on the Marine Corps. If any old shipmates would like to get in touch our current e-mail address is "FREDWACH@PACBELL.NET". If you're in the Bay Area and would like to get in touch our address and phone number are on the (current) VP-1 POPs roster. Best regards to all.

Penny & AW1 Bob **WAGNER** (7/5) — Thanks for the note and the newsletter. I'm not sure why it took brother Mike and I so long to join the VP-1 POPs group. Procrastination mainly. We talk about VP-1 quite a bit, and enjoy the memories. We're planning to go to the Memphis reunion next year. I look forward to getting in touch with the old crew.

Caroline & Lt. John **WALTERS** (4/4) — Finally I'm sending in my dues to join VP-1 POPs. After retiring from the Navy in 1982 we resided in Orange Park, FL. I taught mathematics at Orange Park High School for the next seventeen years. One morning we decided we'd had enough, sold our house, retired from our jobs, and moved to the mountains of North Georgia. I wish we had done so years ago. This retirement only lasted me two months, though. I went to work as a realtor for Century 21 here in Ellijay. It's pretty low key, so it suits me. That's our story in a nutshell. Of all the squadrons I was in (4 of 'em), VP-1 was the BEST! Keep up the great work you're doing. I hope we're able to attend the next reunion.

Laura & Lt. Lance **WEDELL** (3/23) — Here are my dues for the next two years. The check's good, it's just my memory that's bad. I enjoyed reading Paul Johnston's challenge in the last newsletter. We'll see if any of the other crews can make the same claim to participation. We're planning to be at Memphis in 2003 to renew old friendships.

Merlyn & AT2 Dave **WHITE** (3/21) — Enclosed are our dues for the 2002-2003 biennium. We attended the first reunion at the Hunt's Bellingham home and had a great time seeing old faces — and even recognizing some — after 25 years! It was nice to see a note from Lcdr Chuck Hightower in the March newsletter. He was the Tactical Coordinator on crew-6, the crew on which I served as radioman.

## P2V MEMORIAL PROJECT

**Cdr. Don HANSON, President**

With a degree of mixed emotions our lead organization, the VP-2 Association, has decided to suspend efforts for the Whidbey Island P-2 Memorial Project. As mentioned in our last newsletter, the P-2 project group was attempting to obtain a P2V-7 for static display at a memorial to all who served with the Neptune aircraft. The memorial was to be constructed at NAS Whidbey Island's Ault Field where P2V Neptunes operated for over 25 years. On the one hand, they had found

an airplane at Davis Monthan and had some real, genuine support for the effort. On the other hand, there were some doubts. The VP-2 Association's utmost concern was that they didn't want to fail the Skipper at NAS Whidbey, or themselves. Having to entirely disassemble the aircraft, truck it 1500 miles, and then put it back together again was a daunting task, and didn't leave a place to stop. The P2V was, and would always be, Navy property. One can't leave a piece of Navy property around in kit form. So, the group has elected to stop and reassess the support for the project.

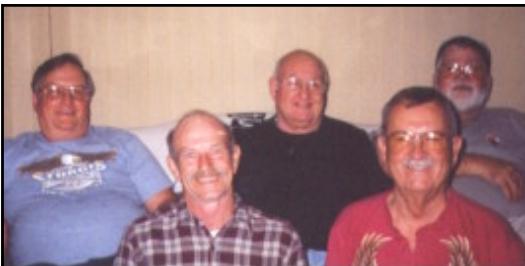
The VP-2 Association will re-evaluate this memorial project at their September reunion. Three questions need to be answered. How much will the VP-2 Association contribute to the project? How much will the other squadron organizations contribute? How much will corporations, foundations, local businesses, and individuals contribute? With favorable answers to each of these questions, consideration will be given to re-igniting the P-2 Memorial Project. VP-17 will be approached to get their position established at their October reunion.

We of VP-1 POPs have not developed a position concerning the P-2 Project. Do we support the effort? How much physical and funding support can be expected? Several of our members, including Don Grove, Rich Hunt, Bob Giddings, George Konetchy, Ed McLaughlin, Gene Poole, and Larry Manaro, have attended local meetings and have personal opinions and ideas, but there is no "corporate" VP-1 POPs position on the project. This P-2 Project cannot make it with support from just the VP-2 Association.

## REUNION UPDATE

**AMCS Mike TAYLOR, Reunion Chairman**

Our "Memphis Mafia" is diligently planning and working on the next "Fleet's Finest" reunion, so y'all be sure to come. Our last reunion committee meeting was very productive and a lot of enthusiasm was exhibited among our little band of ex-pat VP-1ers. Memphis recently hosted the Rumble on the River, and while "Iron Mike" proved not to be, I've got enough energy left to host a super VP-1 reunion. Not to be repetitive, but our plans are to begin with a southern fish fry (catfish) on Friday evening; follow that up with a Memphis Bar-B-Que (pork) on Saturday afternoon; enjoy a guest speaker and have our tri-annual business meeting at a brunch on Sunday morning. Our reunion activities will be held at Naval Support Activity Mid-South, which was in times past, as many of you will recall, the Naval Air Technical Training Center, at Millington, Tennessee. Millington is just a quick buzz up the road from Memphis proper. This road is no longer the "killer highway" that some of you drove 40 to 50 years ago. The outdoor events will be held at Navy Lake on the North side of the base. This rec area has several picnic spots, a very large lake house, and a campground with full hook-ups and showers. There's also a very large over-flow camp area for dry camping. We plan to secure the reservations in Sept for our reunion, as that's the earliest they allow. (*Mike's already made the reservation*). Most of the North side of the base now belongs to the City of Millington; the golf course being an exception. We do need to hear from golfers and hackers in our group. Unless the base has something special scheduled over "our" weekend we can probably get something set up for Saturday morning. Millington has been in transition from tattoo parlors and fast food places to becoming an area with a much smaller population and an older more affluent Navy presence. The same can be said for the Navy Memphis community. By the time of our reunion I doubt there will be any of those old World War II era buildings remaining aboard the base. Most are already gone and even some of the newer brick enlisted barracks have been removed. The appearance will shock many that served here in years past. We'll have information for all concerning the many attractions in our mid-south area. We're still talking with casinos in Tunica County, Mississippi, about a special deal for those in our group in-



Above are some of the "Memphis Mafia" that will be setting up our 2003 reunion. The guys are, L-R: Bob Gregor; Ward Smith; Bill Howard; Mike Taylor; & Jim Wooten. The ladies pictured are: Gail Taylor in the back; L-R in the center is Linda Wooten; Shirley Howard; & Cora Gregor; in the foreground is Sandy Smith.

here the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of September, 2003.

clined to test their luck with games of chance. From Elvis's house, and some of his toys, to fine dining, this area has it in abundance. In the spring edition of our newsletter we'll have detailed information for y'all concerning the gathering. While we've spoken with many people about our reunion, nothing will be firmly decided upon by your reunion committee until this fall. We'll see y'all

our dues, and our scheduled reunions. His newsletters have been great, and he constantly strives to get input for these bulletins from all of us. His publication of our VP-1 POPs newsletters takes a lot of time and effort. Let's all help — submit items for our newsletter — sign-up missing squadrommates — pay your dues promptly.

## A DIFFERENT VIEW OF VP-1

### Cdr. Bill JOHNSON

VP-1 deployed from Whidbey to Iwakuni, Japan, in 1955. At that time they were flying P2V-5F's. The squadron requested, and received permission, to return to Whidbey going west — around the world. By the time they got home they circled the earth. All 12 aircraft made the long journey. At that time I was a NAVCAD in ATU-614 at NAS Hutchinson, Kansas, flying P2V-2's and -3's, and old PB4Y-2 Privateers, (Navy four-engined B-24's for you youngsters), in advanced training. One day while at Hutch we trainees got the word to head down to the flight line. On the parking ramp there was an entire P2V squadron — 12 big, shiny, blue Neptunes. They were preparing to depart for NAS Whidbey Island on the last leg of their around-the-world flight. It was VP-1! They were the first P2V's with jet engines that we'd seen. What an awe inspiring sight as twenty-four R-3350's coughed, belched white smoke, and roared to life. Soon they all began to taxi, those old brakes squealing and screeching — remember those noisy brakes? They quickly roared off and headed northwest; what a sight! I knew then that I'd made the right decision to go "VP" rather than zipping around in some little jet. The chain encircling the globe on our VP-1 squadron emblem signified that around-the-world trip by those 12 Neptunes, their sharp flight crews, and ace wrench turners.

## ATTENTION ALL HANDS

### AMHC Bob GIDDINGS

I'd like to think our squadrommates would give a hail of appreciation and gratitude to Don Grove for all his endeavors for our group — secretary; treasurer; newsletter editor and publisher; membership chairman; reunion support; etc. It's quite a task and extremely time consuming. Our VP-1 POPs reunions have been the result of the efforts of a very few people — (nothing new there). Hey, guys and gals — please do your best to assist in whatever manner you can., and support our endeavors. Do your best to attend our reunions, okay. None of us are getting any younger. Some of those who mustered for our last gathering at Pensacola will not be attending the *Memphis Muster*. They've already reported for duty to the Supreme Commander. We're all well aware of our own families, but please remember — the VP-1 P-3 Orion Pioneers are a family too. Your memories of VP-1 are important to each and every one of us. I didn't mean to neglect our other squadrommates who have so faithfully assisted Don Grove. Kudos also to Rich & Ruth Hunt; "Shark" & Carolyn Morrasch; Don Swendsen; Stu Stebbings; Jeff Barclay; Don Hanson; Rob Roy Graham; "Willie" Williams; Mardy Lewis; Mike Taylor; — quite a crew. I hereby request that all you members of our VP-1 POPs family contact your friends and running-mates from days of yore in VP-1 and do your best to enlist them into our VP-1 P-3 Orion Pioneers organization. And urge them to attend our reunion at Memphis in September of 2003 — whether they become members of our organization or not. We've had good attendance at our reunions so far, the one at Bellingham and the one at Pensacola. However, I believe we can definitely improve upon those beginnings. Spread the word! I realize that everyone, every family, has their own priorities, but for 2½ years we've been aware of the when and where of our next VP-1 POPs rendezvous. With this much advance notice I'd think that most everyone could make adjustments in their schedules and attend the *Memphis Muster*. (Also that's plenty of time to rat-hole some greenbacks for a trip to Tennessee). Membership is very important to our VP-1 POPs outfit. Don G has gone all-out to keep us informed about membership,

**HAINAN HUMOR** — Early in the detainment of VQ-1's EP-3E crew on Hainan Island last year the DATT, a U. S. Army Brigadier General, visited the crew in an open forum — with Chinese officials present. So, consequently, discussion was very limited. As the General was concluding his visit he asked if there were any questions? A young third-class petty officer in the back raised his hand. He stood up and asked, "What's the per diem rate here in China?"

**HARDSHIP DUTY PAY** — The Department of Defense has implemented a new Hardship Duty Pay (HDP) for designated locations. It is paid to service members assigned to areas where living conditions are substantially below ConUS standards. HDP will be paid at a rate of \$50, \$100 or \$150 per month, depending on the severity of conditions in the assignment area. To qualify, members must be assigned to the area permanently, or on a temporary basis for more than 30 consecutive days. Here are some examples: Diego Garcia, \$150; Iceland \$50; Philippines, \$100; Thailand, \$50; Vietnam, \$150.

**DidJaNo** — If you're receiving federal retired pay, including military retired pay, or an annuity, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service is no longer handling your account or sending out your payments. Congress awarded a contract to Affiliate Computer Services (ACS) to administer retired and annuity pay for approximately 2.3 million people, including federal civilian and military retirees. ACS will also handle customer service-related issues.

## CONCURRENT RECEIPT

### AFCM Don GROVE

This past year both Houses of Congress supported passage of "Concurrent Receipt". That would have allowed military retired disabled veterans to receive their full military retired pay and their VA disability pay. Currently, the amount of their disability pension is

deducted from their military retired pay — in effect they are required to pay their own VA disability pension. Our military retirees are the only people required to support their own VA disability pension.

Other federal workers already are authorized “concurrent receipt”. These others who worked for the U.S. government, in whatever capacity, receive both their full government retirement pension and their VA disability pension. Our Senators supported funding of “concurrent receipt” — our Representatives in the House did not. The House version was the one that prevailed. No funding — no pay! Thus discrimination toward military retired disabled veterans continues.

At the same time Congress did see their way clear to fund \$15.4 billion (yes, that's “billion”) in foreign aid. The bulk of this foreign aid money goes to Israel and Egypt. Egypt? The congresspersons say the reason that “concurrent receipt” wasn't funded is that the money isn't available. Guys, I guess they think we just came in on the turnip truck. They're giving away sacks full of money to Egypt, and some other countries, many of which don't even like us — or support us — but the government can't afford to fund “concurrent receipt” of VA disability compensation for our military retired disabled veterans? How do your Senators and Representative stand on this issue?

**The Old Salt Says** — Never miss a good chance to shut up — Good judgment comes from experience. Unfortunately, experience usually comes from bad judgment — Americans are getting stronger! Two generations ago it took two people to carry ten dollars' worth of groceries. Today a child can do it.



This is an artist's concept of what the proposed P2V Memorial at NAS Whidbey Island would look like. The memorial would be located near the main entrance to Ault Field, the primary base at Whidbey.

VP-1 POPs  
C/o Don Grove  
2024 Briarwood Dr  
Oak Harbor WA 98277



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