



VP ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

AN ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS WHO SERVED WITH THE NAVAL AIR RESERVE PATROL SQUADRONS BASED AT NAS SQUANTUM MA, NAS SOUTH WEYMOUTH MA, AND NAS BRUNSWICK ME.

NOTE, CURRENT AND FORMER MEMBERS OF ANY U.S. NAVY PATROL SQUADRON ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US!

ISSUE 72

[HTTP://WWW.VPASSOCIATION.ORG](http://www.vpassociation.org)

JUN 2018

Welcome to another edition of the VP Association newsletter. Until further notice please direct all VP Association-related inquiries or correspondence to Marc Frattasio, PO Box 30, Pembroke MA 02339, 781-294-4491, marc_frattasio@yahoo.com.

RECCO:



ABOVE: *VP-92 P-3A out over the Atlantic Ocean sometime during the late 1970s or early 1980s. Got something similar to share? Contact Marc Frattasio at marc_frattasio@yahoo.com.*

FINAL FLIGHTS:

This was not a good quarter for the VP Association. We lost Ernest Perkins recently. His wife Jeanne said that he loved flying for the Navy. We lost Edward Dembowski, who retired from the USNR as an ADCS. We also lost TAR flight engineer Chuck Trebino. All three men were in VP-92.

THE ADMIN FUND:

The VP Association has no dues but contributions are welcome to help defray the cost of web site hosting, postage, and other expenses. We'd like to thank Ray Beauchemin, Marie Dembowski (in memory of her late husband Edward) and Richard O'Connor for recent donations to the admin fund.

SPEAKING OF THE COST OF PRINTING AND MAILING NEWSLETTERS...

If you have an e-mail address and get your newsletter in the mail please contact George Driscoll at gnddriscoll@gmail.com ASAP so we can send it to you via e-mail. Remember, we do not charge dues and operate on a shoestring thanks to volunteer labor, memorabilia sales, and donations. If you have an e-mail address and get a paper newsletter it would be better for us to send it via e-mail.

LOST CONTACT:

Please inform George Driscoll at gnddriscoll@gmail.com about home or e-mail address changes.

ANOTHER ADMIRAL IN THE FAMILY:

Robert Clark, VP-92's last XO, is being promoted to rear admiral! He's presently serving as the deputy commander of the Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Reserve Component Command in Norfolk, VA.

FAMILY NEWS FROM ERNIE GODZUR:

Ernie Godzur's grandson Garrett was commissioned an Ensign during a ceremony conducted on the USS Constitution in Boston on May 21st. Before he graduated from college, he was presented with the Frederic B. Warder Award for Outstanding Achievement by the Naval Submarine League. This is an award that is presented on an annual basis to an NROTC graduate selected for submarine training who displayed superior academic and professional performance. So, it looks like Ernie's grandson is going to be serving on board a submarine.

A NOTE AND PHOTO FROM DICK SHAFNER:



I was at KPSM [formerly Pease AFB] on Monday May 14th to deliver an airplane and a VP-92 squadron patch. Port City Inc. is the FBO at the field now. They have a large collection of military patches on display. So I left ours and got a promise they would mount it.

Note, Dick Shafner was a flight engineer in VP-92. He's presently a pilot in the Civil Air Patrol.

THE 2018 VP ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION:

We are going to hold an annual reunion this year on Saturday September 22nd at the Sons of Italy Hall in Weymouth, MA. Reservations are required in advance and a reservation form is included on the last page of this newsletter. Attendance at the VP Association annual reunions has been dropping for the past several years and is approaching an unsustainable level. If you want the annual reunions to continue then you really need to come. This year will mark an important milestone in the sense that if we do not get enough people then we will most likely have them less frequently, for example, every other year instead of on an annual basis. If this doesn't work, then the reunions may become a thing of the past. Please note that if you do intend to come to the annual reunion this year try to get your reservations in sooner rather than later. Most people seem to wait until the last two or three weeks and this creates a heavy workload for Barbara Hanigan, who handles the reservations.

NAS BRUNSWICK REUNION:

There will be another NAS Brunswick reunion event held in the Brunswick, Maine area on the weekend of August 10-12. This event is open to anybody who was ever assigned to old NAS Brunswick or is just interested in the base. For more information and to register to attend go to <http://nasbreunion.org>.

BLUE ANGELS COMING TO LOCAL AIR SHOWS:

The Navy's famous Blue Angels flight demonstration team are coming to the Rhode Island Air National Guard Open House and Air Show at old NAS Quonset Point, RI on June 9-10 and to the Great State of Maine Air Show at old NAS Brunswick on August 27-28. See <https://www.rhodeislandairshow.com> and <http://greatstateofmaineairshow.us> for details.

RUSSIAN JET INTERCEPTS US NAVY PLANE (CNN 5/1):

A Russian Su-27 fighter jet performed an "unprofessional" intercept of a US Navy P-8 surveillance plane while it was flying in international airspace over the Baltic Sea Tuesday, two defense officials told CNN. The Russian jet came within about 20 feet of the US aircraft, one official said, adding that the encounter lasted about nine minutes. The intercept was described by officials as safe but unprofessional, though a US Navy official told CNN that the Navy does not officially classify aerial encounters that way. The Navy classifies aviation intercepts simply as either safe or unsafe.

Lt. Cdr. Zach Harrell, a spokesman for US Naval Forces Europe, declined to comment on the specific incident, saying, "US Navy ships and aircraft routinely interact with military units from other countries." He added that the Navy would provide information on unsafe interactions. The last unsafe intercept of a US Navy aircraft by a Russian jet occurred in January when a Russian Su-27 jet flew within five feet of a US Navy EP-3, forcing the Navy plane to fly through its jet wash. The US Navy deemed that intercept unsafe and unprofessional. Following that incident, the US State Department issued a statement accusing the Russians of "flagrantly violating existing agreements and international law."

CNN article by Ryan Browne

P-8As UNAFFECTED BY FAA 737 ENGINE INSPECTION REQUIREMENT (USNI News 4/23):

The Navy's fleet of P-8A Poseidon aircraft are not in any immediate risk of facing the same engine failure that caused the April 17 emergency landing of a Boeing 737 – which the P-8 design is derived from – a Navy spokeswoman told USNI News. The Federal Aviation Administration on Friday issued an emergency airworthiness directive mandating that any plane whose CFM56-7B engine had conducted more than 30,000 takeoff-and-landing cycles must be inspected within 20 days. This would affect 352 engines in the U.S. and 681 engines worldwide, according to the FAA statement.

However, the Navy's P-8s are not among them. Though the P-8 – which is built on the same 737 production line as the commercial planes but then pulled aside for the addition of military-specific gear – uses the same CFM56-7B engine, "there is no immediate risk to or action to be taken by the P-8A community. The Navy's P-8A engines remain well below the cycle limit for required inspections of fan blades," P-8 program office spokeswoman Denver Beaulieu-Hains told USNI News today. "The FAA mandates inspection [for commercial aircraft] to start at 20,000 cycles, while the current high-time P-8A has accrued 5,175 cycles (as of 13 Apr 18) since it entered service in 2012. At the current cycle rate, the first engine in the fleet will hit the 20,000 cycle point in about 10 to 15 years."

Beaulieu-Hains said that Naval Air Systems Command had previously determined that the P-8 engines' fan blades – the component that failed in the Southwest Airlines Flight 1380 incident at more than 30,000 feet altitude that killed one passenger and forced an emergency landing – would be inspected when the planes are brought in for their first scheduled depot maintenance visit, which

would occur “no later than the 6,000-cycle threshold, with a recurring 6,000-cycle inspection interval through 20,000 cycles. After 20,000 cycles have accumulated, the engine will be inspected at a 3,000-cycle interval,” she said.

Boeing has sold its P-8A to the U.S. Navy, the Royal Australian Air Force and the United Kingdom Royal Air Force, and its P-8I variant to the Indian Navy. The Navy has 64 planes in its inventory as of January and is slated to buy 111 total, according to NAVAIR.

USNI News article by Megan Eckstein

RUSSIAN SPY SHIP IS DOCKED IN HAVANA HARBOR (Miami Herald 3/16):

The Russian spy ship Viktor Leonov, which the Pentagon has been monitoring because it has sailed uncomfortably close to U.S. waters on several occasions, docked at the port of Havana on Friday. Photos taken by CNN’s Havana correspondent, Patrick Oppmann, show the ship sailing past an American cruise ship as it made its way into the harbor.

The high-tech spy ship, which is also armed with missiles, has been deployed by Russia to carry out intelligence-gathering missions in the Caribbean and near the U.S. coast. Pentagon officials told the Washington Free Beacon that the ship had been seen leaving Trinidad and Tobago with an unknown destination in mid-January. Days later, the ship was spotted in international waters about 100 miles off the coast of Virginia, CNN reported.

Where the Russian ship travels in the Caribbean and near U.S. waters has been closely monitored by the Navy and the Pentagon. It has been spotted near where U.S. naval installations operate. In February 2017, the ship was seen only 30 miles off the coast of Connecticut. Previously, it was spotted near Cape Canaveral, Florida and 20 miles south of a submarine base in Kings Bay, Georgia.

On previous occasions, the Russian spy ship has docked in Cuba to load supplies. In January 2015, it arrived unannounced the day before the arrival of a U.S. delegation led by Roberta Jacobson, then the assistant secretary of state for the Western Hemisphere, who was in charge of negotiations for the reopening of the U.S. Embassy in Havana.

Miami Herald article by Nora Gamez Torres

RUSSIA SAYS IT SNUCK SUBS NEAR US BASES UNDETECTED (Business Insider 3/16):

Russian media reported on Friday that its military snuck nuclear attack submarines near US military bases and left undetected just weeks after Russian President Vladimir Putin hyped up his country's nuclear capabilities. "This mission has been accomplished, the submarines showed up in the set location in the ocean and returned to base," Sergey Starshinov, a Russian navy submarine officer, told Russian state-owned media. Starshinov said the vessels came and went "undetected" and that without violating the US's maritime borders, they got "close enough" to US military bases.

The Russian media, known for trafficking in propaganda to glorify Putin and the state's military, will reportedly release a TV series on the exercises. The Pentagon did not respond to request for comment on this story.

The incident remains unverifiable with deniability baked in. If Russian submarines truly came and went undetected, no credible third party could likely verify the exercises. The fact that the military drill will become a TV series suggests that it was carried out at least in part for propaganda purposes, rather than practical military needs. The submarines, which carry long-range cruise missiles that can fire from underwater, have no business coming close to the US, as they have an effective range of

more than 1,500 miles. The submarines named by Russian media are powered by nuclear reactors, but have no nuclear weapons.

The incident comes as Putin prepares for an election on March 18, though he is expected to win handily. Putin has limited which opposition figures can run and controlled the state's access to information throughout. Russia frequently engages in propaganda to glorify its military, as it did when it recently deployed early-stage supposedly stealth fighter jets to Syria. After a few days of dropping bombs on undefended villages in Syria, Russia declared the planes, which are designed for high-end warfighting against US stealth jets, "combat proven."

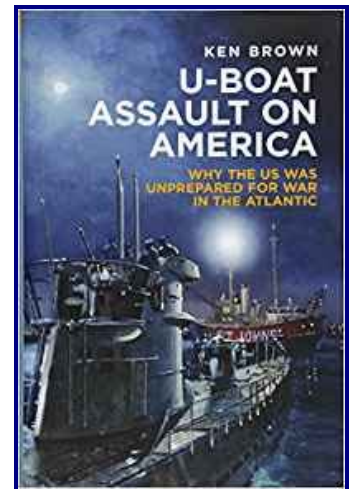
In February, Russian military contractors suffered a humiliating defeat to the US military in Syria, with airstrikes and artillery wiping out up to 300 Russian nationals while US forces suffered no combat losses, a US General has confirmed. Both the US and Russia have heavily entrenched mutually assured destruction nuclear postures, meaning that any nuclear strike on the US by Russia would be immediately returned by US missiles fired from silos, submarines, and airplanes pummeling Russia.

Russia is currently facing increasing scrutiny and sanctions over its meddling in the US's 2016 presidential election and its alleged role in the poisoning of former spies in Britain. Russia's economy is heavily dependent on energy exports, and the weak price of oil and competitiveness from the US and other players have crippled its economy, though it continues to spend heavily on the military. Despite having four times the population, Russia's GDP is roughly equivalent to Canada's and military sales and power remain one of its few lifelines to national prestige. Though the US and Russia are Cold War foes increasingly at odds over foreign policy, the only recent significant clash between the two countries came in February, during the battle in Syria which Russia overwhelmingly lost.

Business Insider article by Alex Lockie

RECOMMENDED READING:

Immediately after the United States entered the Second World War the Germans began sending submarines across the Atlantic to sink ships off the east coast. This effort was called "Operation Drumbeat". The U-Boat attacks began in January 1942 and the ferocity was such that the Navy rushed to get NAS South Weymouth into operation four months ahead of the original schedule. This great book by author Ken Brown tells the story of the first wave of German submarines sent across the Atlantic to sink American shipping and how the U.S. Navy was initially unprepared to deal with them. In fact, the Navy was so unprepared that the Army Air Force was initially given the responsibility for conducting airborne ASW in the northeast. You can order this fine book through www.amazon.com or any other good bookseller



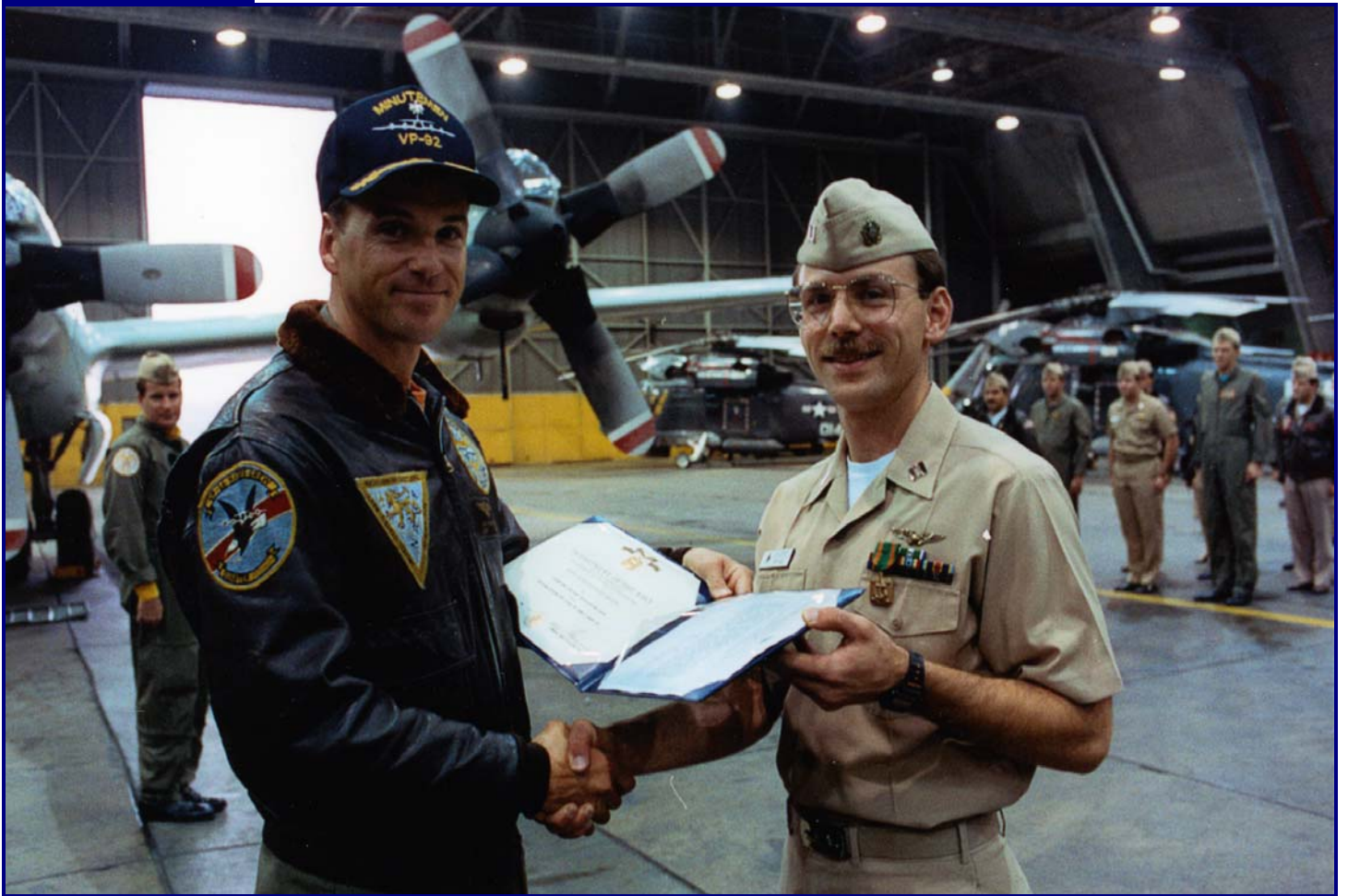
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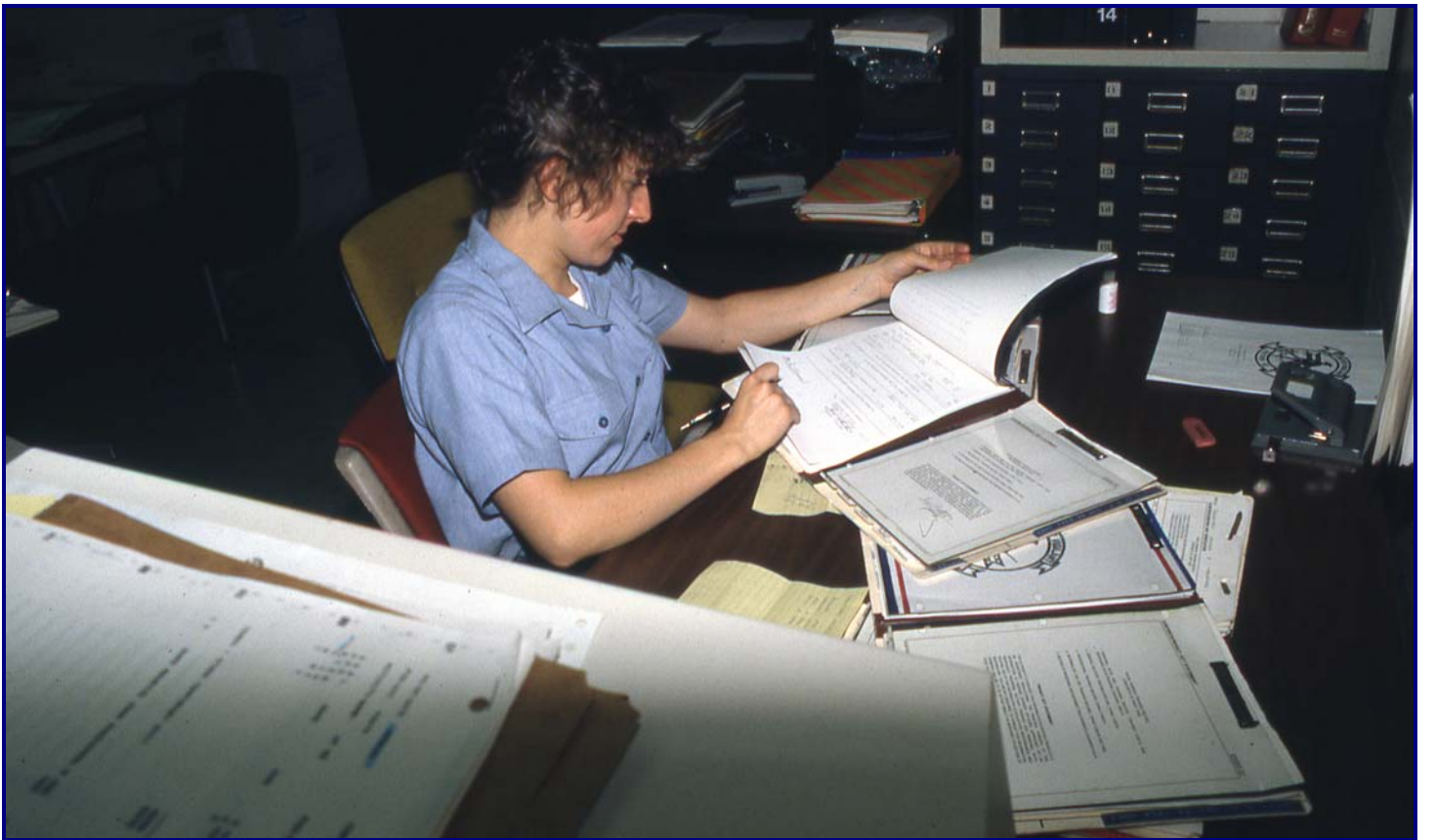
A friendly reminder that there are active groups associated with VP-92, NAS South Weymouth, NAS Brunswick, and the P-3 Orion on Facebook. Check them out at www.facebook.com.

MONTHLY MEETING:

Members who can do so are welcome to join us for lunch on the second Thursday of every month at Warren's Place in South Weymouth, MA (in the Whole Foods Plaza off Route 18) from 11:30 to 13:30

PARTING SHOTS:





***Come To The Reunion And Reconnect With Old Friends Like These!
Until Next Time, Lose Not Thy Speed In Flight Lest The Earth Rise Up And
Smite Thee – “Frat”.***



VP ASSOCIATION 2018 ANNUAL REUNION
WEYMOUTH SONS OF ITALY HALL, 54 WHITMAN ST., EAST WEYMOUTH, MA
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2018 FROM 1200 TO 1700

Appetizers and Cash Bar between 1200 and 1300, Dinner at 1300, Guest Speaker after Dinner

BANQUET RESERVATION ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Squadron Affiliation(s) and Years: _____

Number in Party: _____

Guest's Name(s): _____

Amount Enclosed (\$45 Per Person): \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to **"The VP Association"** and Mail to Barbara Hanigan, 23 Parkview Terrace, Duxbury MA 02332.

If you haven't been to a VP Association reunion before, how about joining us this year?

Don't assume that everybody you know from your Navy Reserve or regular Navy patrol squadron days is aware of the VP Association or the annual reunion banquet. Spread the word about us to your Navy friends and former shipmates.

Dress is CASUAL. However, if you would like to wear a uniform (any kind) or flight suit to the reunion that's fine.

Tables will be available for displays of any Navy memorabilia that you may wish to bring. If you have photos, cruise books, squadron or crew patches, squadron ballcaps, NATOPS manuals, or any other interesting memorabilia that you'd like to show off to your friends and former shipmates at the reunion banquet please bring it with you and we'll find a table for you.

Please help reduce Barbara Hanigan's workload by getting your banquet reservations in to her as soon as possible. Don't wait until the last minute. Thanks!