



Going Boldly Where No Navy (or DoD) PAO Has Gone Before

By CAPT Joseph F. Gradisher, USN (Ret)

Google "Navy UFO"... You'll get about 16,300,000 results within 0.51 seconds. Add "spokesman" and you get 591,000 results. Nearly 82,600 by adding "Gradisher" to the string.

Media coverage - mainstream, not just the tabloids or fringe - is intense. New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, ABC, NBC, FOX, CNN, and CBS (twice on 60 Minutes), etc. have breathlessly followed every new bit of information. (I've even been quoted in Russian news media reports.)

There've been TV specials, podcasts, social media hits, books, and my favorite: Freedom of Information (FOIA) requests for every possible aspect and word on the UAP issue. We've had to do full scans of my emails (on unclassified, secret, and top secret networks) at least 5 times for any mention.

After serving nearly 27 years on active duty—most as a Navy PAO—and four years in the corporate world, I returned to the fold as a senior Civilian PA Specialist back in the Pentagon in 2009. Around this time CNO Roughead created

the Information Dominance (now *Information Warfare Community* (IWC) and combined the N2 (Intelligence) and N6 (Communications) directorates in OPNAV. I assumed the duties as the PAO for N2N6 and lead PAO for the IWC. My 3-star boss is dual-hatted as the Deputy Chief of



CAPT Joseph Gradisher
Special Assistant for Public Affairs,
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Naval Operations for Information Warfare and as the Director of Naval Intelligence. I'm still in that job today. That latter role is how my involvement with UAPs came about.

It seems that, for years, there have been unidentified objects (UAPs) flying in our training ranges. Yet, despite frequent sightings and near misses, our naval aviators had not been reporting these sightings – largely due to associated stigma (teasing, tin foil hats, little green men in POD notes, etc.).

observations of unauthorized, unidentified objects operating in proximity to military aircraft.

In addition, having served a couple years with the aviation community as AIRLANT PAO, I had a pretty good feel for how to approach this internal communication conundrum. Job number one in naval aviation is SAFETY! We do not want any aviators or crew injured or killed, despite the inherent risks. Another priority is OPERATIONAL SECURITY - our aviators train as they fight. We do

U.S. NAVY CONFIRMS FOR THE FIRST TIME THE USG VIDEOS ARE UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA

The three famous leaked –and now released– government videos from 2004 and 2015 ([FLIR1](#), [Gimbal](#) and [GOFAT](#)) provide an idea of the problem set. The aviators reached out to the Intelligence Community to help identify the objects; I got pulled in to help destigmatize the reporting. Bottom line: the more reports you

not want potential adversaries to learn our tactics, techniques, or procedures. Those two aspects: the *safety of our aviators* and the *security of our operations*, resonate with the aviation community and *now form the basis for our investigations into UAPs*.

With the full approval of CHINFO and the Air Boss (the Navy's lead aviator), I was cleared hot to talk to news media. The desired outcome: *If aviators saw me quoted by name, on the record, from the Pentagon, stressing Safety and Security, they would be more inclined to report the UAP sightings*.

It worked! Reporting increased. But nobody expected the attention this subject would draw...

In fact, [DoD's April 2020 public release](#) of the three previously-leaked videos was in direct response to many FOIA requests. In previous responses to query, *I had confirmed that they were actual Navy videos*. [That has now morphed to the general belief that I confirmed *they were UFOs*. I simply said that the objects shown in the videos "*are still classified as unidentified.*"]

In addition to the media, there is also keen interest within Navy and DoD leadership, the



have, the better chances of identifying these things!

Early on, we changed how we referred to these objects, *unidentified aerial phenomena*, UAPs vice UFOs. This re-branding aimed to further destigmatize aviators' reporting by providing a little distance from established common connotations associated with UFO sightings. This terminology provides a *basic descriptor* for



But that hasn't lessened my role. The DoD spokesperson, Sue Gough, and I discuss every query that comes in, with either my words or my chops incorporated into her responses.

Big lesson learned: Consistency in language in each response is a must! We quickly found that *unless we used the exact same phrasing in each response*, we would get additional articles or additional FOIA requests noting the language changes... and asking for the reasons for that change. *A fully staffed Briefing Card is crucial!*

That's why I remain as the sole Navy PA POC for the UAP Task Force. There is just too much nuance for multiple Navy spokespersons at this time.

Gradisher checks in with CHINFO Newsdesk Action Officer LT Gabrielle Dimaapi. *"One of the joys of my current position is that I get to go into CHINFO frequently each week to talk/confer with and mentor these young stars. They are bright, educated, eager, and enthusiastic. And many are now fully accredited in the profession. I would have trouble competing with them. Our community is in great hands."*

White House, and on the Hill. The Navy-led UAP Task Force leadership (including my boss) has briefed many leaders and have testified in closed and open Congressional hearings numerous times. They continue to provide frequent classified briefings to members of Congress and their staff.

The culmination of this interest was the release in June of the Office of National Intelligence's [Preliminary Assessment: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Report to Congress](#). That report references 144 sightings (80 involving multiple

sensors), with only one positive identification of an observed object.

The focus on this topic has been so intense over the last couple of years that the Secretary of the Navy gave the CHINFO specific direction to transfer lead spokesman duties to DoD Public Affairs. (He was fatigued at seeing the Navy referenced in every article.)



Gradisher discusses the communication plan for October's *Cybersecurity Awareness Month* commemoration with (center) N2N6D Rep Olivia Logan and CHINFO OI-3 Newsdesk Deputy Director Sandra Gall (right).

So where are we today with all this?

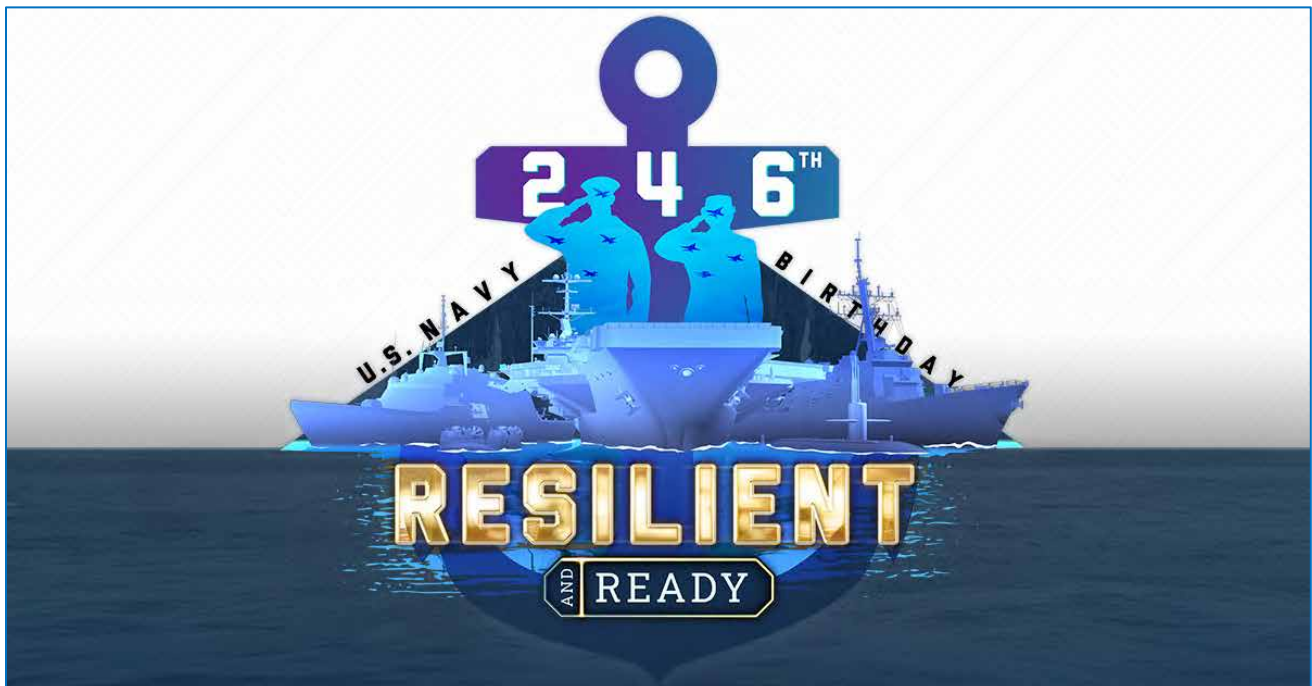
Coming out of the Report to Congress, the entire effort is being reassessed. Rather than an informal effort run by the Navy, the entire organizational structure of the UAP Task Force is under review. Multiple agencies from DoD, the Intelligence community, and the US Government as a whole are now involved. And, some international partners as well!

With respect to Public Affairs, no decisions have been made on who will lead or be involved. I'm not sure if I will continue to play. But one thing is certain... despite a long and varied career in Navy public Affairs on active duty and as a civilian... I will be forever known as the Navy's UFO guy. Or I should say ... UAP guy.

Live Long and Prosper.



CAPT Joe Gradisher joined the Navy Public Affairs community in 1984 following five years as a surface warfare officer. Career highlights include multiple CHINFO tours (action officer; OI-5 Director of Plans, Policy & Community Relations; Executive Assistance to CHINFO; and Deputy CHINFO), Naval Training Center Great Lakes, 7th Fleet PA Rep Subic Bay, Naval War College/Armed Forces Staff College, DOD Public Affairs Plans and Newsdesk, AIRLANT, BUPERS, and Commanding Officer of the Naval Media Center. He retired from active duty in 2005 after nearly 27 years of active duty. Following retirement, Gradisher led a firm-wide internal communication program reboot for Booz Allen Hamilton, before returning to the Pentagon as a senior Civilian PA Specialist to serve as Special Assistant for Public Affairs/Director, of Strategic Engagements to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare. In addition to the Naval War College, Gradisher is a proud graduate of the University of Michigan.



USNPAA Sightings



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Dear USNPAA Members:

Welcome to the fall edition of *Sightings*. Excitement is building as we get closer to our 2022 reunion. This issue provides plenty of reunion information, including registration forms and hotel links. Make plans today to join us. We want to see you there!

I'm also excited about some new initiatives the Association's board of directors is undertaking. They will add a new dimension to USNPAA and be substantive in many respects. We're still in the discussion stage and have much work to do—and that includes working with RDML Charlie Brown and his team. As you know, one of the objectives of our organization is to support and promote the professional growth, education and development of those involved in Navy public affairs. Suffice it to say, our initiatives will do just that and put some action behind those words. As these initiatives develop, we will be sure to keep you apprised.



RDML Tom Jurkowsky

The fall issue of *Sightings* is another good one. Co-editors Tina Tallman and Tim Beecher always omit their names when I mention them in my letter, but I insisted that they keep their names in this one. They do an incredible job each quarter. It's really an endless undertaking—one issue out the door and then the planning begins for the next one. I'm personally very grateful for the time they devote to this demanding *volunteer* position.

Some of the great stories: Joe Gradisher (aka the *UFO PAO*) tells us about his experiences working the Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon (UAP) issue. Joe is on the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare (N2N6) staff. Joe Navratil shares how his Navy public affairs career prepared him for his current job with the Forest Service; CDR Ben Tisdale's mentoring piece highlights the value of networking; and former shipmates are on hand once again to share their memories of public affairs trenches past.

RADM Joe Callo's thoughtful piece on the importance of dealing with change is excellent. We asked Joe to adapt it for *Sightings* after I read a speech he had given on the subject.

Enjoy the fall with several events to reflect on—Navy Birthday, Veterans Day and the rapidly approaching holiday season. In the interim, please think about our reunion in April. We hope you will join us.

Sincerely,

Tom Jurkowsky

Mentoring



U.S. Forest Service

Communicator Joe Navratil: Who Shaped His Career & How

Joe Navratil was on only his second Navy Public Affairs job when he, and other PAOs, were mentioned in Tom Clancy's non-fiction book *Carrier*. Navratil is mentioned a dozen times in *Carrier*, and unfortunately, Clancy misspells *Navratil* at every mention. Alas, the price of fame.

Connecting the dots of Navratil's path to Public Affairs reflects a serpentine but not all that unusual pattern.

Working on the PR staff for the Baltimore Colts one summer while also toiling as a journalist for two local newspapers in the early 1980s, a restless Navratil enlisted to become a Navy Diver. That led to a Naval Academy appointment. He first heard about Navy Public Affairs during a visit to USS Mount Whitney (LCC-20), with Commander, Second Fleet embarked.

He chose Mount Whitney at service selection because of the potential connection to Public Affairs. As a fresh-caught Ensign, Navratil was TAD to the Naval Academy Public Affairs shop when he met some senior PAOs, including then-CAPT Kendell Pease. He worked with some Second Fleet PAOs on Mount Whitney, including then-LCDR Steve Pietropaoli, and did a TAD that meant working with other PAOs, bolstering his resume. Near the end of his tour as a Mount Whitney division officer, Navratil put in a lateral transfer package and was selected.



Navratil sees the tour aboard USS George Washington (CVN-73) as his most formative as a PAO. "That was a huge responsibility as a lieutenant, back when carrier PAOs were division officers and not department heads. We had an all-star team aboard GW: 12 people were promoted to flag officer and ADM Mike Mullen was a one-star as Strike Group Commander. That was when Tom Clancy profiled us in

Carrier. We had some rock star carrier PAOs in Norfolk at the time: Denny Moynihan, Ed Buclatin, among them. Joe Gradisher provided incredible support from AIRLANT. We helped each other out a lot. The biggest things I learned on the tour was to ask, 'What am I missing?' and 'Who else needs to know?' I still ask those questions today."



Joe Navratil, the early days

Mentors also included Mark McDonald, Mike Brady, John Kirby, Rob Newell, Hal Pittman, Nick Balice, Greg Geisen, Anthony Cooper, Paula Dunn, and Brenda Malone.

"I relieved Mark McDonald twice and we're great friends. Mike Brady taught me to always make time for everyone. John taught me how to be humble and confident at the same time. I've still never heard a spokesperson as polished as John Kirby, except maybe for Steve Pietropaoli. They exude trust and confidence. I learned from Rob Newell to always smile, from Hal Pittman and Nick Balice to demand a seat at the (operational) table, Greg Geisen for technical competence and to always find the best in people and take care of them.

"I loved watching Paula Dunn and Brenda Malone become the officers and people they are. We were lieutenants together at CHINFO and they're legends to me.



San Diego Fleet Week 2003: With Ed Buclatin (second from right) and KUSI-TV news team on Harbor Island.

"I made a goal to have a conversation with each of the 200 or so active duty Navy PAOs in my first year as a 1650 and accomplished that. I was blessed in my last tour at SURFPAC to have three deputies that have done "pretty well": Charlie Brown, Pat McNally, and Josh Frey."

His biggest memory?



With (left) CAPT Jeff Gradeck (Ret.) and CAPT Ed Buclatin (right). I was a civilian at Joint Public Affairs Support Element (JPASE), Jeff was Strategic Communication lead for EUCOM, and Ed was EUCOM PAO.

All PAOs remember THAT phone call... For Navratil, it came at 0600 on October 12, 2000.

"Meghan Mariman at CHINFO told me that the USS Cole (DDG-67) had been bombed while in port in Yemen. National media were on their way to Norfolk.

"I was the Media Officer at CINCLANTFLT (now USFF) and asked, 'Why are they headed here?' Then it dawned on me it was Cole's homeport, and it was the only place a reporter could go and get someone to talk about the attack and how the Navy was responding. We had incredible leadership with Mike Brady and ADM Bob Natter. We did daily media updates as best we could for two weeks. Mark McDonald was at Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic (CNRMA), Denny Moynihan at SURFLANT, and John Kirby at SECONDFLT. We were a tight-knit group and divided up responsibilities.

"I'm very proud of what we did to honor the memory of those we lost, those who came home with physical and emotional wounds, and the ship herself."

USNPAA Sightings

In 2018, Navratil decided to expand his public affairs chops beyond the Navy.

"I'd been in DoD for most of my adult life, both in uniform and as a civilian, with some time working for a PR firm and a defense contractor.



April 2019 with Senator Dianne Feinstein and team discussing the [Wildfire Emergency Act](#). The bill was introduced in the Senate May 26, 2021.

"Looking for something different, I saw the Forest Service position on USAJobs and tweaked my resume to fit what they were looking for. I was surprised when they flew me in for an interview, thought I did pretty well with it, but had no idea if they would hire someone outside their agency. Sure enough, I was offered the job and have been at it for three years. I live just outside of Napa and Sonoma, and being a wine guy, that's pretty fantastic too."

"Starting with a new agency relatively later in life can be challenging. I came into it confident of my PA skills and with an open heart to learn five new things every day about the Forest Service. I still do that. Ask people what they do, go out and get your boots dirty, and ask them what they think could be improved. Listen and lead."

Changing to a different agency after years in military work was a challenge.

"First, if you think the Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, or anything similar, is a breeze after DoD, I can assure you it isn't, Navratil said.

"During wildfire season out west, it's comparable to being a PAO on a carrier deployment: long, intense days with operations, lots to accomplish every day without dropping anything, strategic and tactical messaging, people going into harm's way, with storytelling being the backbone. Our wildfire season in California is inching closer to becoming a fire year. So that means a six to nine month deployment every year, except you get to go home most nights and no one is shooting at you."



U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Region Communication Director Joe Navratil on the August Complex fire in 2020.

Are there any similarities between the Forest Service and the Navy?

"Yes, cool uniforms, especially if you like shades of green! Also, although I never worked for a base, region, or CNIC, it's probably similar. The Forest Service has 10 regions; mine oversees national forests in California, Hawaii, and the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands. We have eighteen national forests in California, and we are gaining one in Hawaii. Each forest has a PAO and maybe an assistant PAO, but most are one person shops. A forest PAO does everything: media, internal comms, public meetings, legislative affairs, social media, FOIA, and more.

"Forest PAOs work for their Forest Supervisor, with a dotted line to me in the regional office. I work for an SES whose title is Regional Forester and she has three GS-15 deputies. I work for all of them, and they are some of the best leaders I've ever worked for!

"There are differences as well. You aren't competing for promotion with anyone, there are no salutes, no required sirs/ma'ams, and everyone from top to bottom is on a first-name basis. That took some getting used to but it works well!

"Obviously the issues are far different. In my first week on the job, I was writing an Op-Ed for my boss about why we needed to relocate wild horses from one forest because the horse population had overgrown and damaged the forest. A week after that, I was on that forest seeing the horses first-hand, escorting media, and meeting with opposition groups. Other big issues are managing forest health amidst climate change and drought, responsible recreation, managing vastly increased visitor numbers during the pandemic, timber sales, endangered species who inhabit our forests, and wildfire.

"Always wildfire."



Proudly displayed Navy swag graces Joe's Forest Service office on Mare Island in Vallejo, CA.

In his current role as Director of Public Affairs and Communication for the Southwest Pacific (Region 5), Joe Navratil leads planning and execution of communication strategies for public understanding of the Service's stewardship of public lands through his regional office, eighteen national forests in California, and forestry partnerships in Hawaii and US-affiliated Pacific Islands. Following his retirement from the Navy, he held several Defense-related positions before transitioning to the Forest Service. For those going through their own transition experiences, here are some key take-aways from Joe...

Three Pro Tips from Joe Navratil for Moving to a Civilian Job

Be humble but confident.

The Navy prepared me very well, but if you are thinking about moving to a civilian post or career, my suggestion is to avoid making your military experience too much of a highlight. Don't assume that military experience automatically translates or will get you the job. No other government agency has a schoolhouse like DINFOS, so maximize those opportunities. A joint job will teach you a lot about relationship-building in different structures and service cultures. My time with the Joint Public Affairs Support Element (JPASE) had me working frequently with new people and commands who looked to me to make them better. I took the same approach to my Forest Service job.

Stand out from the pack.

Most DoD civilians or transitioning military make it through the initial screening for other federal agencies but hiring boards only interview 3-7 people out of the 30-50 who may make the certification. You don't have to use the standard USAJobs resume format. It's too wordy and there are some eye-popping two-page resume formats now that include photos and graphics with measurables you've accomplished. Consider using a resume service. Tailor it to the advertisement. A good cover letter is vital also, even if it isn't required in the job advertisement. Envision who is reading it and sell yourself. Don't be shy here, say why this is your dream job and what you will do for them.

Leave them with something they will connect with you.

Mine was, "I make good organizations better." They need to come away from the 45-50 minute interview feeling you are the one they want to hire. Research the agency's recent issues, be yourself, be confident and affable, and prepare for questions you think they will ask. Most interview topic areas you need to prepare for are in the "How you will be evaluated" section of the job advertisement. Look for things like communication and media, interpersonal skills, leadership, oral and written communication, and Public Affairs policies and procedures. Determine what previous experience you want to showcase in answering those questions.

Good luck!

Mentoring

Trust in Networking

By CDR Ben Tisdale, APR+M

Disclaimer: This is not an essay on creating networks to increase the likelihood of obtaining a coveted assignment or earning a promotion. It is not about how to make short-term or temporary connections for their own sakes. Lastly, and most importantly, it is not about how to get everyone to like you, or how to get in with the "right" people when you're not very good at that stuff.

Networking: Defining Its Value

Networking means something different for everyone. To some, it's about connecting information systems. To others, it's about making business connections. For our purposes in Navy Public Affairs, networking is "Behaviors that are aimed at building, maintaining, and using informal relationships that possess the (potential) benefit of facilitating work-related activities of individuals by voluntarily granting access to resources and maximizing common advantages," based on a three-year study by Hans-Georg Wolff and Klaus Moser of the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg.

In other words, networking is about forging long-term, reciprocal relationships that can help you and your shipmates fulfill your duties and responsibilities better as professional communicators and service members overall.

Our community is blessed with rich diversity in terms of our accession pathways, our educational backgrounds, our unique experiences, perspectives, etc. It doesn't necessarily follow, however, that our career paths ensure maximum experience and professional exposure to all possible scenarios and challenges. For example, I've had my fair share of cyberspace operations and casualty assistance support exposure, but I've never dealt with an aircraft or ship accident. I've rarely interacted with the Pentagon Press Corps, and as a University of Georgia graduate, the Army-Navy spirit spots that Naval Academy alums go nuts for do not emotionally resonate with me as much as SEC college football (sorry).

Nevertheless, my lack of experience can be compensated for by reaching out to our fellow PA professionals (officers, enlisted, civilian, and contractors) for help and support. Our greatest strength as a community is our ability to pick up the phone and quickly call another PA professional at another command for coordination, or simply to gather information: to fill in the gaps; to understand how a PAO has supported an operation in the past; to better understand history; and, how other PA professionals addressed certain challenges.

In a sense, networking fills the gaps for ourselves as professionals. But this is not the only component of value for networking. Another important value is the opportunity to develop long-standing, meaningful relationships with professionals who are of the same craft - for the connectedness, the encouragement we can provide one another.

PA can be challenging and stressful. There is no need to "fight the good fight" alone. We are connected with and influence each other more than we realize. We can and should be there for each other, whether far out to sea or teleworking on our couch at home.

I've been humbled, repeatedly, through my gracious adventure as a PAO on the value of networking and maintaining close relationships with my fellow PAOs. Therefore, please allow me to share with you two stories in which I learned not just the value of networking, but also how to maintain a network.

Kermit is Thrown to the Wolves.

In August of 2007, then-LCDR Pat McNally greeted me outside of U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF) in Norfolk, Va. I had been a PAO for only a month, after being reassigned from naval aviation training. He greeted me warmly and took me in to meet the rest of the USFF public affairs team: CAPT Conrad Chun, CDRs Don Sewell, Ted Brown, Jim Brantley, MCC Lisa Clark, and several others. A LTJG at the time, I had absolutely no clue who these people were. No longer surrounded by flight suits and the smell of JP-8, I found myself deep in a sea of senior officers, business suits, and classified briefing rooms.

Without even being DINFOS-PAOQC qualified, I was thrown to the wolves of media and community groups. Initially, I worked for Brown, a die-hard Ohio State fan, a former Master Chief, and an absolute legendary PA professional. Although I was about as green as *Kermit the Frog*, Brown did not hesitate to put me on various media queries, as well as reach out to the different type-command PAOs and many other PAOs in the Hampton Roads area.

I am by genetic programming, introverted. I avoid large gatherings as much as possible. Meeting new people is not natural for me, and so when I was thrown to the wolves, I was extremely uncomfortable. I was beginning to miss the helo-dunker back at flight school.

However, within short order, several PAOs took the time to mentor me along the way. Luckett. Fage. Loundermon. Nunnally. Rosi. Gabos. Within a matter of weeks, I felt as if I had met several dozen PA professionals, both civilian and military. I also started to develop a modest list of media contacts. They were mostly very friendly, and easy to work with.

As time went on, my network continued to grow. I met our Reserve team, including then-Ens. Tommy Groves and Adam Clampitt. I met the legendary Beth Baker, and even supported her team for NYC Fleet Week 2008. I participated in several environmental impact assessments town halls, which gave me an opportunity to meet several line officers on the staff. I also served on several short TAD assignments on the waterfront, including the USS Bataan and USS Freedom. On Freedom, I worked with media, our Canadian partners, OLA, and even gave a tour to a then-RDML Frank Thorpe and his wife.



CDR Frank Magallon (left) and then-LCDR Ben Tisdale after hosting a congressional staffer tour of the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) in 2019. Navy PAO mentors like Magallon have provided guidance, wisdom, and experience to countless Public Affairs sailors across the Fleet. (LT Lewis Aldridge photo)

I didn't appreciate the networking gold-mine at the time, but being a junior officer on such a large, major staff gave me hundreds of opportunities to connect with people all over the country. To this day, I still talk to many people I first worked with at USFF and look back at the tour with fond memories.

As stated earlier, none of this came naturally to me. I had to learn a lot observing other PAOs, as well as learn the hard-way, on how to network and develop new relationships.

Growing Your Network: Five Recommendations for Junior PAO.

1. **Be Humble** (You don't know everything). Even for the lateral transfers and prior enlisted, when you first become a PAO, you must respect the fact you don't know everything. Even senior PAOs will tell you they still don't know everything. You may come to the community with impressive credentials, but until you've served in several independent tours and enjoyed several notable successes, and earned healthy doses of failure, recognize that you still have a lot to learn. Embrace it.
2. **Be Patient** (Email is the last option). Make sure your first impression is done the right way. Whenever reaching out to someone for the first time, *pick-up the phone or walk down the hall* and introduce yourself. Only when all options have been exhausted should you email someone for the first time, especially if you need a favor. Email is great for getting things done, but not the best for building new relationships.
3. **Be Inquisitive** (Ask more questions than offer unsolicited statements). As a rule, I still maintain this *modus operandi* even as a senior officer. In my humble opinion, the best PAOs are more about listening than talking. Get to know who you are talking to first, and never make assumptions about who you are speaking to.
4. **Be Humorous** (Don't be so serious). LCDR (Ret.) Dave Luckett was a master at this. Have you ever gone to a quiet, uncomfortable meeting of complete strangers, only to witness the mood of the room change as soon as someone snaps a witty joke? Now obviously, be judicious with your choice of humor, but bringing smiles to folks' faces will help people remember you and make you a joy to be around. Life is tough enough as it is.
5. **Be True** ("Above all else, to thine own self be true"). Shakespeare's *Hamlet* has a lot of great lines, but this one is one of my favorites. Because it's more than just being true to oneself; by extension, it also follows that by being honest with one's self, you will also be honest with others. People will respect your honesty, especially as it becomes a part of your reputation.

Originally from Woodstock, Ga., CDR Ben Tisdale has been a Navy Public Affairs Officer since 2007. Tisdale holds a master's in Mass Communication from San Diego State University and is accredited in public relations and military communication. He is the first Navy PAO to become qualified as an Information Warfare Officer and is currently serving as the Deputy Director of Fleet Public Affairs and Outreach for Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command. He is married to his best friend Rachael, and they have two daughters, Caroline and Callie. He last wrote Take Off the Armor & Drink Some Tea in the Summer 2021 Sightings.



RADM Callo

Change

RADM Joseph F. Callo, USN (Ret.)

The following article is adapted from a virtual speech recently made by RADM Callo to the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity chapter at Colorado State University

Change. We live with it every day in our personal lives, businesses, and in military operations. To expand that thought I spoke to three individuals who deal with change constantly.

First was former Secretary of the Navy and former Ambassador to Norway Ken Braithwaite. He was direct:

"The only constant in life is change. I learned that truth early in my professional career. It helped me to be prepared to meet change in the succeeding chapters of my life. I was a new 'nugget pilot' in my first squadron, VP17. We were in a stand-down period, and I was looking forward to my first leave with my family in Michigan. As my leave approached, the Soviet Navy deployed two new Delta III SSBNs right up against the Aleutian Island chain. For my squadron it was *All Hands on Deck...General Quarters*. The CO called all the pilots together and told us leaves were cancelled, we were heading north from Hawaii to Adak, Alaska. Stunned, what does a young pilot do? I shuffled into the Ops Officer's office to ask if what the Skipper said applied to me.

"His reply, 'Braithwaite, what the hell don't you get? We can't control the Soviet Navy. Our job is

to defend the U.S. Get your ass down to the flight line and get your plane ready to go! Oh, and one more thing son, in this man's Navy everything's a crap shoot with a ton of change coming your way. If you can't embrace that you're going to have a sh...y life!'

"It was a lesson I took to heart and through all the ups and downs and all the change along the way. I've lived life prepared for change, thanks to the lesson OPS taught me that day."

My second resource was Father Gerald Murray, the pastor of a major Catholic parish in New York City, one that largely serves members of the United Nations community. His Parish of The Holy Family is an epicenter of cosmopolitan life. He warns:

"At the root of our search for change for the better is a healthy dissatisfaction with the way things are at present...Not all changes are improvements."

Father Murray focuses on improving "the way things are," but he goes on to say "We need the *wisdom* to judge whether the change we have in mind will really improve things or not, and the *courage* to act, or not act, based on that

judgement. As I said, not all changes are improvements." For Father Murray, *wisdom* and *courage* are essential enablers, and *we should beware of change for its own sake*.

One of my daughters, Kathleen, who lives in London, provides a third view. Kathleen, most recently a journalist with Reuters, has had assignments to the Philippines, Belgium, Vietnam, and London.

Kathleen offered the following: "Technological change over the past decades has had the life-altering impact of the Industrial Revolution of the 1800s. Technological innovation has altered the way people live, work, travel and spend leisure time. In the process technology has transformed the way we create, learn, communicate...and view community. Trying to cope with unrelenting change can seem as daunting as leaping onto a moving skateboard...but it is worth the effort."

Kathleen's focus is on *technology* as a powerful agent of change in our lives, and she shows optimism blended with realism when she says: "Even when tsunami-style transformation appears negative, remember that positive outcomes may well follow."

My own thoughts about change:

Recently, while walking on New York City's Madison Avenue, I passed Brooks Brothers, the venerable men's clothing store. Through one of the large display windows, I could see into the store's entire first floor. It was empty: no merchandise, no salespeople, no customers. It was *completely changed* from what I would have viewed a year ago. The Brooks Brothers scene is multiplied many times throughout New York City and the United States.

Beyond the obvious facts, what does that radically changed scene mean? It screams at us that tens of thousands are suddenly unemployed. Lives in the U.S. have been abruptly changed.

There is a very different and very interesting story about radical physical and mental change and how they are intertwined. It's the story of Pete Gray, a one-armed outfielder, who played baseball for a major league team in St. Louis years ago. When asked by a reporter if he might have been a better player with two arms, Gray responded that if he had not suffered the loss of his arm, he might have been less determined, *and not made the team in the first place*.

Gray's emphasis was on *inspiration* and *determination*, and how those qualities can be paramount, even in the face of traumatic changes.

Change *is a constant*, and it is a factor dominating our culture, with the impact of digital technology perhaps being *the* major factor. When all is said and done, questions about change relate not only to the "how and why," *but to how we manage* change that counts.

Make no mistake, our times are changing at flank speed. But far more important than the *existence* of change, is *our reaction to it*.

I'd like to share an admonition that I received years ago from retired Major General Bob Scales, author and former Commandant of the U.S. Army War College. It's straightforward and warns us to avoid over reaction to the inevitable *changes* that come our way.

Scales' admonition was: "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing."

So, is there a "main thing" about change? I suggest the following:

Change is a rapidly growing factor in our lives, and it will probably be an increasingly significant factor for generations to come. Change is a constant. We need to *embrace* it, or *accommodate* it, but at all costs, we should avoid being *victims* of it.

A Photo LDO (6470) Journey in Telling the Navy's Story

by LCDR Stephen P. Davis, USN (Ret.)

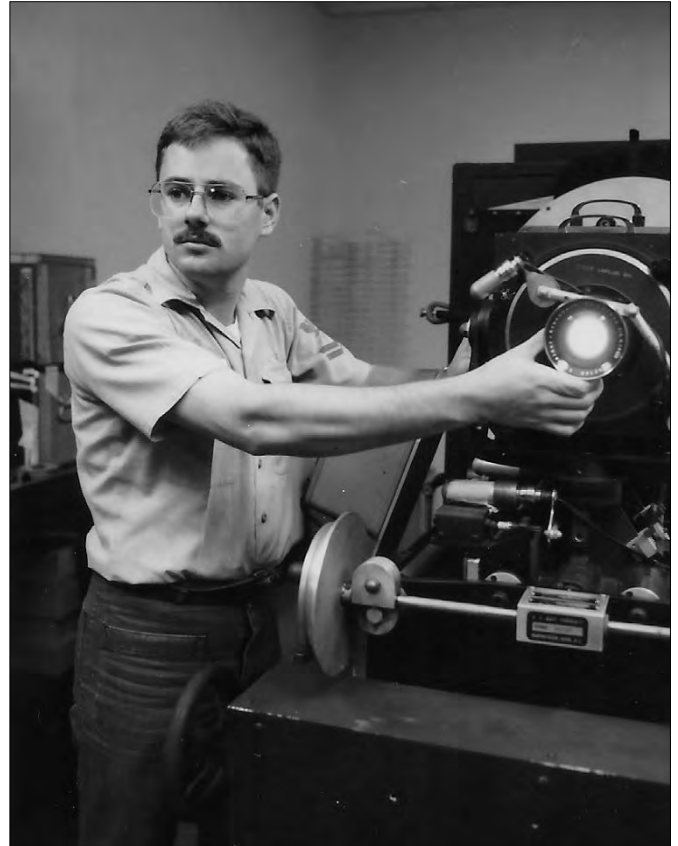
In November 1979, as 19-year-old Photographer's Mate Airman Recruit (PHAR), I checked into my first Navy duty station at the Naval Air Test Center in Patuxent River, Maryland. Right out of Photo "A" School in Pensacola, Florida, I thought I had finally arrived when I was eventually promoted to "full" Airman Photo Mate and received three green stripes to go with the "IFGA" (pronounced like it's spelled - "if-ga") rating badge on my sleeve. This rating symbol for Photographer's Mates represented light going through a lens and the mathematical formula for aerial mapping.



The IFGA

You could've knocked me over with a feather if you would have told me that in just over 10 years from that day of checking into Pax River I would be commissioned as an ensign Photo LDO in the U.S. Navy.

Seeing something of value in me, my Leading Chief, PHC Mal Mowbray, asked if I would like to go through the adventure of being an aerial photographer, and get paid for the pleasure by attending flight physiology. Flight physiology and flight pay? "Photo Mates flew?" I thought. "Absolutely!" I replied, and eagerly pursued my flight qualifications as quickly as possible, and eventually earned Naval Aircrew wings and was awarded NEC 8288/Aerial Photographer.



12 DEC 1981 - PH2 Davis adjusts his large format camera for copy production in the Photo Lab at Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, MD.

It wasn't long before I found that one of the greatest things about being a Photo Mate was the wide variety of photo assignments in which the Navy placed you to just *get the shot*, and to tell the Navy story. So, there I was, a PHAA, with little-to-no flight experience, strapped into the back seat of a TA-4J Skyhawk, chasing the F/A-18 prototype from McDonnell Douglas, documenting a Sidewinder missile shoot with a 16mm high-speed motion picture camera during a high "g" turn. I quickly discovered a camera turned into a lead ball when subjected to a high "g" load!

Looking back, I'm not sure of the wisdom of placing such a large responsibility on the shoulders of an Airman Apprentice Photo Mate, but my leading chief had confidence in me, so I ventured off to my assignment. Fortunately, my U.S. Marine Corps test-pilot had loads of patience with this green, young photographer, and I did indeed *get the shot* and *tell the story*.

I left Pax River, newly married and a newly minted PH2, outbound for a change of duty station to the staff of Commander, Sixth Fleet (C6F), as one of VADM Ed Martin's photographers. C6F was embarked aboard the destroyer-tender USS Puget Sound (AD 38), and home-ported in

Gaeta, Italy. Shortly, I met my new boss, C6F PAO, CDR Pete Litrenta, and my immediate supervisor, PH1 Doug Tesner. As a C6F photographer, I was assigned everything from photographing the Admiral's DV dinner parties, small parts photography on the tender, to going temporary duty (TAD) to Beirut, Lebanon, where I worked ashore for LCDR Mike Labbe documenting U.S. Marines on the beach, and, setting up a temporary photo dark room on the USS El Paso (LKA 117), anchored off-shore.

While in war-torn Lebanon, LCDR Labbe had to attend a meeting at American University in downtown Beirut. As Mr. Labbe departed for his short meeting, he asked for me to hang back and watch over our equipment. So, I stayed seated in the back of the open-top, Vietnam-era jeep, enjoying the pretty day. There I was, all by myself, in dungarees with cameras slung around my neck, wearing an old, green flak-jacket, when all these young Lebanese college students started to appear. They started asking my thoughts on the "Israeli occupation of Palestine and Lebanon." And, "What was the American policy regarding Hezbollah?" "Huh? Un-oh. Where's LCDR Labbe?" I thought, as I looked over the students' heads to the door where Labbe had disappeared. More students attracted more students, and soon, I was the center of a lot of attention and was obvious to me that I was now the spokesperson for the Navy in Beirut.

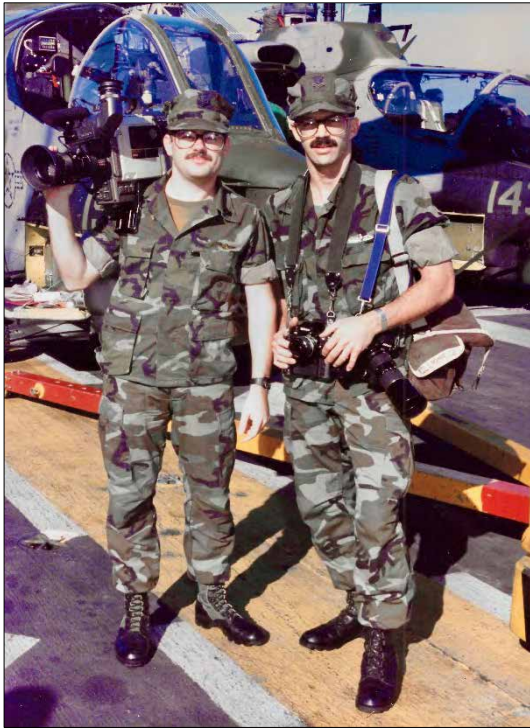
I was beginning to get very nervous when, fortunately, LCDR Labbe showed up just in time for us to speed off, leaving a crowd of students still talking as we headed back to the US-held compound at the airport. The American Embassy had been blown up just a few weeks before we arrived, and Beirut was very jumpy. LCDR Labbe and I heard shelling all night, all around us every night as we slept that week at the Marine Corps' "Rock Beach" at the international airport. It was just a few weeks later after we left that the Marine barracks was blown up killing 241 Marines, sailors and soldiers.



20 DEC 1989 (above) PH1 Steve Davis in a quiet moment while documenting EOD Group TWO.

10 APR 1986 (below) The TV production crew from Naval Imaging Command gather with Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger to watch a speech Weinberger was recording for an internal DOD group (PH2 Davis is on the far left, standing).





DECEMBER 1988 - PH1(AC) Davis and PH2(SW) Jeffrey Elliott, USN, pause while shooting flight deck operations aboard the USS Okinawa (LPH 3), documenting Operation EARNEST WILL.

Several years later, as a PH1, I was forward-deployed to a Combat Camera detachment in Sigonella, Sicily. From there I became the only military photographer assigned to the Bush/Gorbachev Summit in Malta. The Soviet Cruiser, Slava, and the C6F flagship USS Belknap (CG 26) (my temporary home) were anchored inside the breakwater at Valletta in support of the Summit. As part of a mutual crew exchange, 12 of Belknap's Navy enlisted crew were invited to eat lunch and tour the Slava. I was assigned to accompany the small cadre to provide photo coverage of the visit. Once aboard the Slava, it was like our small group was transported back in time to the 1960s. All of the old technology on the Slava gave me great confidence that we had nothing to worry about. Where a typical Navy ship had digital displays and computers, the Slava still had "steam gauges" and analog machines. The differences were stark, and quite jarring, as to how behind the technology-curve the Soviet navy was at the time. (I fear that would not be the case if I were to visit a comparable PLAN Chinese ship today.)

These three, small examples (aerial photography, photographing the Marine Corps in Beirut, and the Malta Summit) and many, many more experiences, are just some of the unbelievable adventures I encountered as a Photo Mate. And, I believe, my grand sea-stories are somewhat typical of most Navy Photo Mates & Journalists of the time, and ultimately as a Photo LDO. Our community has had a lot of opportunities to do some incredible things in telling the Navy story (MCs and PAOs still do).

I eventually got orders to the Naval Imaging Command in Anacostia, and then was selected to attend motion picture school at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. When I checked into Long Beach Naval Station, for further disposition to USC (along with my fellow classmate PHs and JOs), a Chief Boatswain Mate who ran the temporary barracks, couldn't believe the Navy was paying active-duty enlisted Photo Mates and Journalists to attend full-time motion picture school at USC. This incredulous



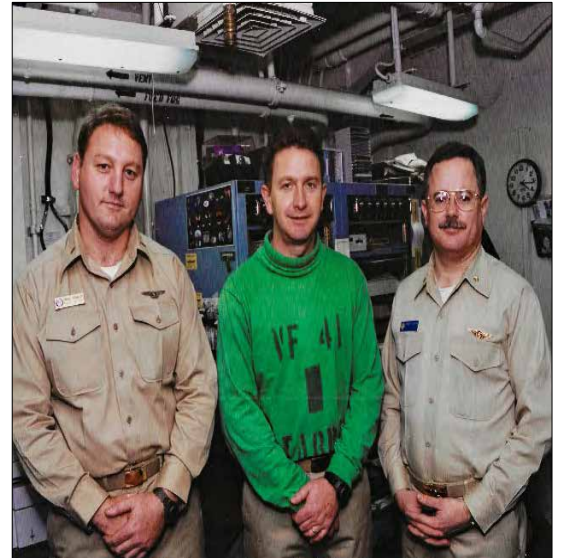
Left, MAY 1991 An F-14B Tomcat aircraft from Fighter Squadron 143 (VF-143), the Pukin' Dogs, drops a Mark 83, 1,000 pound bomb over a bombing range near Fallon, NV. (Photo by ENS Stephen P. Davis, USN.); Center, JULY 1990 - The U. S. Navy conducts a shock test on the USS Avenger (MCM 1) off-shore of Key West, FL. (Photo by PH1(AC) Stephen P. Davis, USN.); Right, APRIL 1989 - Four CH-46D Sea Knights from Helicopter Support Squadron 8 (HC-8), the Dragon Whales, fly in formation over the USS Arthur W. Radford (DD 968), in Norfolk, VA. (Photo by PH1(AC) Stephen P. Davis, USN.)

chief went around to his staff in the barracks admin office, one-by-one, rhetorically asking if they could believe the Navy was "...paying these guys to go to USC while on active duty!".



JULY 2003 - LT Davis U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* magazine cover.

I went on to spend four years at Fleet Combat Camera, Atlantic, before applying for Limited Duty Officer. I couldn't believe the day the ops officer of Fleet Imaging Command, LCDR Dick Hohorst, announced to LT Gary Butterworth (COMCAM OIC), and me that I was a selectee in the FY91 LDO 6470 class. Upon receiving this life-altering news, I immediately left without thinking or asking permission, and floated my way home to announce to my lovely wife, Donna, that I was going to be a Naval Officer.



24 MARCH 2001 - As USS Enterprise (CVN 65) steams off the coast of Virginia conducting training in support of JTFEX-1, three Photographic Limited Duty Officers, (l-r) ENS Greg Pinkly, LTJG Doug Houser, and LCDR Steve Davis, gather in the ship's photo lab.

Once commissioned, I was assigned to Fighter Squadron-143 at NAS Oceana; then as the "OP" division officer aboard the USS Enterprise (CVN 65); and then finally, as OIC of the same Combat Camera unit where I had served as an enlisted man years earlier. I had come full circle. After 25 years of service, I retired as a lieutenant commander.

I've worked with some great people through the years like LDOs LT Todd Beveridge and LCDR Jeff Elliott, JOC Art Frith, PH1 Doug Tesner, LT Bill Davis (1650 and former JO), and my reserve Combat Camera CO component CDR Ken Braithwaite (1655). They all told the Navy story exquisitely.



LCDR Stephen P. Davis

What interested me most in my Navy career was telling the Navy story. It is my regret that there weren't more opportunities for Photo Mates and Journalists to work together at various duty stations, as I thought both rates were a natural fit and complemented each other well. In hindsight, it was logical to merge the PH and JO ratings.

I remain grateful for the Photo LDO/6470 commissioning path. It was the only direct commissioning program for our enlisted personnel, based purely on merit and achievement, and not requiring one credit of college education. I hope the Navy considers reinstituting this valuable, upward mobility, management tool to recognize the best performers in our small MC enlisted career field today.

Storck Saigon Baby Delivery

Collateral Duty, Saigon, 1967

By Ted Storck, CDR, USNR (Ret.)

It was quiet in Cholon, the Chinese section of Saigon, where I was billeted while assigned to the Commander of Naval Forces, Saigon, one night in 1967.



Then-LT Storck when serving COMNAVFORV staff in Saigon.

But the quiet night became anything but when I was awakened by a sentry who told me a Vietnamese woman was about to give birth on the sidewalk in front of our BOQ.

"What do you want me to do?" I asked, "Just because my name is Storck doesn't mean I'd delivered a baby

before." Smiling, he said, "No, we need you to take her to the Vietnamese hospital. You are the only one I know with a vehicle."

So, I dressed, helped load the woman into the back of my carry-all; off to the hospital we went. I got there before the birth, even though I was stopped several times by Vietnamese police and sentries. When we arrived, the nurses took over and I think all went well from there.

I have wondered: Was it a boy or girl? Was he or she ever told it was an American sailor who took his/her mother to the hospital? All in a day's work for a Navy man, and our great military in Vietnam.

Incidentally, years later when I was a police officer in Los Angeles, I did get to deliver a baby in the back of an SUV that was stopped on a busy freeway. My partner and I had gotten the call to assist another officer. When we arrived, we found the Spanish-speaking officer talking to a Mexican woman lying in the back of the SUV, apparently in pain. Then he left, saying in English to us he had another call, leaving us to attend to the birth. The woman spoke no English, and we spoke only a few words of Spanish. The baby boy was born, and the mom and the baby were off to the nearest hospital for an evaluation. When we later cornered our Spanish-speaking officer, we asked him what he had told her before his speedy exit. He said, smiling, "I told her you both had done this hundreds of times and not to worry. Truth be told, my partner grew up in Los Angeles and had never seen kittens born. Me, a Minnesota farm kid, had seen, cats, dog, lambs, calves, etc., born, but NEVER a human. Now I had.

And to make all this more interesting, my younger brother, Richard, delivered a baby while serving as a police officer in Minneapolis. The front page of the Minneapolis *Star* headline: "Stor(c)k Delivers Baby."

CDR Storck enlisted in the Navy in 1956. After boot camp at Great Lakes, he was assigned to the staff, Fleet Air Wing One/Taiwan Patrol Force; discharged as a third-class petty officer in 1958. B.A. in Journalism, University of Minnesota, 1963. Reporter and night editor, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (ND), 1963-1966. Direct commission in 1965 as an Ensign in the Naval Reserve. Active duty 1966-1972: DINFOS at Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN, 1966; CHINFO, 1966; Syracuse University, 1966-1967, MA, photojournalism. Commander, Naval Forces Vietnam, 1967-1968; awarded Bronze Star with Combat "V." Eleventh Naval District, San Diego, 1968-1970. CHINFO, 19700-1972. LAPD officer, 1972-1975. Radio station owner in Nebraska, California and Minnesota, 1975-1988. Semi-retired as reserve deputy sheriff and EMT in Montana, 1996-2003. Today: spends summers in Minnesota and winters in Arizona.

Carrier Strike Force PAO in the Hot Seat...

1650: A “Somewhat” Restricted Line Officer

By CDR Jamie Davidson, USN (Ret)



CTF-77 PAO LCDR Jamie Davidson on watch in the early 1980s.

Although Public Affairs Officers are designated “Restricted Line Officers”, newcomers in our field should understand that this term is often adjusted as needed.

After four years in Hawaii-based fleet commands, I headed to the Philippines to relieve Duke Smith as PAO for CTF-77, the Pacific Fleet’s Carrier Strike Force.

Duke told me a new Rear Admiral had just taken over command of CTF 77. Neither one of us knew anything about him. I soon learned that the new Admiral felt that if the carrier battle group was at sea, his staff would be onboard the carrier. I didn’t know it then. But, being “onboard” would mean underway at-sea for 22 months of my 24-month assignment.

All the CTF-77 staff officers attended TAO (Tactical Action Officer) school in San Diego before reporting for their collateral duty role as a Flag Watch Officer. All except the PAO and the Supply Officer. However, while the Supply Officer was never assigned a watch, the PAO was treated like the rest of the staff when it came to watch rotation. After a couple of “orientation” watches, I became part of the regular underway watch rotation along with the “Unrestricted Line Officers”.

On one of my earliest watches in the middle of the night in the middle of nowhere on USS Midway (CV-41), I was content in CIC sitting in the Admiral's chair, picturing myself as Captain Kirk on the starship Enterprise. All the ship's personnel were busily going about their business, when someone announced: "Two Soviet bombers approaching the Battle Group." Suddenly the CIC got very quiet, and everyone turned to me. Midway's watch officer approached me and said: "Do we launch the alert?" (two F-4's hooked up on the flight deck and ready to launch.)

Suddenly, "restricted" versus "unrestricted" officer meant very little as the two Soviet Tu-95 "Bear" bombers slowly moved toward the battle group on the radar screen. I knew I was supposed to make a decision, so as the Flag Watch Officer, and resident Public Affairs Officer onboard, I said: "Launch the alert."

It's very noisy when two F-4s launch off a flight deck in the middle of the night, causing many senior officers to magically appear in the CIC. Soon the phone on the side of the command chair rang. It was the direct line from the Admiral's quarters.

The Admiral asked, "What's going on?" I replied: "We have two Bears approaching the battle group and I just launched the alert."

After a pause, the Admiral calmly said: I appreciate your initiative, but before you start World War III, next time check with me first. Meanwhile, turn the watch over to the Operations Officer."

The ship's crew found all this hilariously funny, as the two Soviet bombers turned away as if on cue. I soon learned this was a routine occurrence in WestPac operations, part of the Cold War "games" being played at the time.

Restricted or Unrestricted, we're Navy Officers first and foremost.



(Top photo) Then LCDR Davidson briefs reporters in New York during the mid-80s.

(Left photo) CDR Davidson and New York Mayor Ed Koch share a moment following the mayor's USS Lake Champlain (CG-57) commissioning speech in 1988. Mayor Koch's presentation praised the Navy's plan to homeport USS Iowa (BB-61) and support ships on Staten Island. (The plan would be scuttled less than two years later.)

Mark Your Calendar!

Make Your reservations!

USNPAA Reunion 2022

By CAPT Sheila Graham, USN (Ret.)



Only six months to go and we'll be gathering in Arlington, VA, for USNPAA Reunion 2022! Sign up now for the reunion which will be held [April 1-2, 2022](#), at the [Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/Shirlington](#), the same hotel where we held Reunion 2019. Located about 10 minutes from Reagan National Airport, the hotel is in the lively [Shirlington Village](#) with its many restaurants, shops, theater, and a grocery store.

Hesitant to book travel due to COVID-19? Maybe our risk-free guarantee will help.

Reunion registration fees are refundable until March 17, 2022, and the hotel allows free cancellation of guest rooms before 11:59 PM EST the night before your reservation starts. Plus, our Board of Directors approved subsidizing the cost of this reunion. While hotel and event site costs have increased since 2019, this subsidy will allow us to cover the increased costs AND offer reunion registration rates that are \$20 cheaper than they were in 2019!

Day 1 -- Army Navy Country Club Welcome Reception & Dinner

The reunion kicks off Friday, April 1, with a *Welcome Reception and Dinner* at the elegant [Army Navy Country Club \(ANCC\)](#) in Arlington, a 10-minute drive from the hotel. - *Special thanks to CAPT Chuck Connor for sponsoring our group!* - We'll enjoy hors d'oeuvres and drinks at the reception on the *Rooftop Terrace* with its spectacular view of the Washington Monument. Then we'll move to the *Five Star Ballroom* for a three-course seated dinner and program that will include the presentation of awards and a guest speaker.



(If you register just for this event, the cost is \$20 LESS than the 2019 price!)

USNPAA Reunion - April 1 & 2, 2022 continues

Day 2 -- Business Meeting, Lunch & Farewell Reception

On Saturday morning, April 2, we'll meet in the hotel for a *Business Meeting* which will include a treasurer's report, membership report, top-notch guest speakers and other official business. *Lunch* in the hotel restaurant is included. You'll have some free time Saturday afternoon to explore Washington or just spend time connecting with old friends in our Hospitality Room. On Saturday evening we'll conclude our reunion with heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks at a *Farewell Reception* in the hotel.

The Best Value for your money is 'Full Registration.'

For just \$215 per attendee - \$20 cheaper than it was in 2019 - *Full Registration* includes all the events, meetings, and the Hospitality Room. If you or your guest prefer to attend select events only, the *Friday Welcome Reception and Dinner* will be \$100 per person, the *Saturday Meeting and Lunch Package* will be \$75 per person and the *Saturday Farewell Reception* will be \$60 per person. The dress for the Friday dinner will be Business attire. The dress for all the other events will be Business Casual. For more details, see the [registration form](#) (Link or go to *Sightings* page 25 to print your form for mailing.)



Make your hotel reservations directly with the [Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/Shirlington](#). We have a special rate of \$149 (plus tax) for the nights of April 1, 2, and 3, 2022. The rate for Mar 31 is \$169 (plus tax). These rates have free cancellation before 11:59 pm EST the night before your reservation starts. To get this special rate, hotel reservations must be made no later than March 1, 2022. See the [registration form](#) for more details about the hotel.

Don't miss this opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet new active duty members. Mark April 1-2 on your calendar and send in your registration form and check today!

CDR Chris Dour & CDR Karen Jeffries enjoy USNPAA Reunions. So will you!



SCRAPBOOK 2019 USNPAA REUNION



Top row left to right: CAPT Joe Gradisher, Denny Klauer, Jill Stull & CDR Mark Stull catch up on old times. (LCDR Scott Allen photo); CHINFO legendary award honoree Judy Van & USNPAA President RDML Tom Jurkowsky at the Welcome Reception. (CDR Toby Marquez photo); Nita Ross, CDR Bob Ross, CAPT Jeff Gradeck & CAPT Brian Cullen. (LCDR Scott Allen photo)

Second row: LCDR Tina Tallman, CAPT Cate Mueller and CAPT Mary Hanson reminisce over photo scrapbook created by CAPT Betsy Bird. (CDR Toby Marquez photo); Sally Jurkowsky & CHINFO guests CDR J.D. Dorsey & wife Jefferson James-Dorsey. (LCDR Scott Allen photo)

Third row: VICE CHINFO RDML Roberto Durand & USNPAA President RDML Tom Jurkowsky present Exemplary Service Award to CHINFO's MC2 (AW) Anita Newman. (LCDR Scott Allen photo); CDR Frank "MAGS" Magallon, then-Deputy CHINFO CAPT Brook DeWalt & CDR Evelyn Moy. (CDR Toby Marquez photo); Reunion Awards Committee Chairman CAPT Jim Noone introduces award recipient MC2 (AW) Anita Newman. (LCDR Scott Allen photo)

Bottom row: Willa Hall Smith, CAPT Duke Smith, CAPT Gordy Peterson, CAPT George Vercessi & his wife Barbara Versessi; CDR Steve Epstein, his wife CAPT Sheila Graham, CHINFO's LT Robert Reinheimer & wife Lara Brito at the Army Navy Country Club dinner. (CDR Toby Marquez photos)



US Navy
Public Affairs
Association

USNPAA Reunion 2022 Registration

Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/Shirlington, Arlington, VA

April 1 - 2, 2022

REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

(This does not include hotel reservations.)

Member Name: _____

Guest Name(s): _____

Member Address: _____

Phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

Email: _____

_____ Check here if this is new contact information so the USNPAA database can be updated.

To make your reunion reservation, mail your completed Reunion Registration Form and your check to: USNPAA Reunion, c/o CDR Dick Thompson, 12040 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-1215. Payment is by check only, payable to "USNPAA." Your completed Reunion Registration Form and check must be received no later than March 10, 2022. No refunds will be given after March 17, 2022.

USNPAA members may choose Full Registration which includes all reunion events OR you can register separately for only the events you wish to attend.

- A. **BEST VALUE!** Full Reunion Registration covers all events at \$215 per person

Number of attendees _____ Total: \$ _____

OR register for each event separately

- B. Friday evening, April 1, Welcome Reception and Dinner at Army Navy Country Club @ \$100 per person

Number of attendees _____ Total: \$ _____

- C. Saturday, April 2, daytime program at Hilton Garden Inn. Includes Hospitality Room, Business Meeting & Lunch @ \$75 per person

Number of attendees _____ Total: \$ _____

- D. Saturday, April 2, evening Farewell Reception at Hilton Garden Inn at \$60 per person

Number of attendees _____ Total: \$ _____

OPTIONAL

- E. USNPAA would like to provide complimentary tickets to some active duty CHINFO guests for the Friday Army Navy Country Club dinner.

Your voluntary contribution will help us make this possible. Total: \$ _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE: \$ _____

USNPAA Sightings

SPECIAL NEEDS

Please provide details about any dietary restrictions or other special requirements.

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED

These reunions are only successful when our members volunteer to help. If you want to volunteer, please tell us how you would like to help. A member of our Reunion Planning Committee will contact you closer to the reunion to get you involved.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

This reunion registration does NOT include your hotel reservation. You must make your own hotel reservation directly with the reunion hotel, Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/Shirlington in Arlington, VA.

The hotel has given us a special rate of \$149 (plus tax) for the nights of April 1, 2 and 3, 2022. The rate for Mar 31, 2022, is \$169 (plus tax). To get this special room rate, hotel reservations must be made **no later than March 1, 2022**. After March 1, the sleeping rooms in our room block will be released for others to use. This rate has free cancellation before 11:59 p.m. Arlington, VA, time on the night before your reservation starts.

Group Name for our room block: **Navy Public Affairs Association Reunion**

Group Code: **NAA**

To make hotel reservations online:

- Click on this Booking Link:
<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=DCAASGI&arrivalDate=2022-03-31&departureDate=20220404&room1NumAdults=1&cid=OM%2CWW%2CHILTONLINK%2CEN%2CDirectLink>
- Click on "Special Rate"
- Put in Group Code (NAA)
- Click on "Update"
- Put in your name, address, and payment information
- Click on "Book Reservation"

To make hotel reservations by phone, call the hotel at 1-800-HILTONS.



Sightings

USNPAA's quarterly newsletter

Navy public affairs team past and present, let us hear from you!

Send your stories and photos to Sightings c/o:

Tina Tallman at ttallman1650@gmail.com or

Tim Beecher at beechert@icloud.com

Find USNPAA on...

the web at <http://www.usnpaa.org>

Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/usnpaa>

Winter 2022 issue deadlines:

Story/article proposals

20 October 2021

Final copy submission

5 November 2021

U.S. Navy Public Affairs Association (USNPAA)

was established in 1994 to:

Foster and enhance cordial relations and mutual understanding among former and current active duty personnel and civilian employees of the U.S. Navy who were, or are, engaged in performing public affairs functions.

Support and promote the professional growth, education, and development of individuals engaged in all aspects of U.S. Navy public affairs.

Stimulate and promote a broad acquaintance and a spirit of fellowship among members and others interested in an effective U.S. Navy public affairs program.

Our name changed to *U.S. Navy Public Affairs Association* in 2013 to better focus on all three areas of purpose, and to send a strong *signal of inclusiveness to all Navy public affairs communities: active, reserve, retired, civilian, officer and enlisted*.

JOIN US: If you are, or ever have served in Navy Public Affairs, become a member for free at www.usnpaa.org/membership.html to receive access to USNPAA events and community.

The U. S. Navy Public Affairs Association is a
501(c)(19) nonprofit Veterans organization headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia.