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Sightings

Volume 20, Issue 2 October 2014

From the Bridge...

It has been a pleasure to serve as USNPAA president these past two years. Writing my final "signal" to you, I am happy to report that president-elect RADM Frank Thorp and I have been in very close touch for many months so that a smooth turnover occurs at year's end.



The organization, with your support and encouragement, has a great strategic plan thanks to the work last year of Frank and his task force. We have become an organization with an added focus on professional development for serving public affairs people in addition to our social focus. To go with our expanded mission, we have a new name--U S Navy Public Affairs

Association--and a new logo, which you can see from this issue of Sightings. As this issue goes to press, we are putting our redesigned website up live and hope you like it: usnpaa.org.

As I have said before, the future of our organization depends upon our ability to attract younger public affairs folks to our mission and activities. We have had very little membership recruitment following our founding 20 years ago and the average age of our member is growing. To address this issue, your board has voted to extend free-of-charge membership to any serving USN public affairs person who applies; this will be in effect through the end of 2016.

We owe thanks to Alan Goldstein, who has stepped down as our Webmaster after many years of great service. His relief is Ensign Joe Scannell, USNR, whose day job is digital project manager at Edelman Digital, part of the well-known global PR firm. Our new logo was developed by Capt. Chris Nemeth, a USNPAA board member, who has done this kind of thing for a living and has helped re-brand Navy commands such as Third Fleet and NavEur.

Congratulations must also go to Rear Adm. Dawn Cutler, our new CHINFO. We had a great turnout of members who attended her fun promotion ceremony, which featured remarks by both SecNav and CNO. I know that Admiral Cutler is very supportive of USNPAA so we will continue to have a warm relationship with the CHINFO organization.

It's been an exciting two years. We have a new IRS tax status as a Veterans organization, thanks to the years-long effort led by Capt. Jim Noone. We had a great reunion last year in DC, thanks to the efforts of many but managed by Capt. Sheila Graham. We have a rebranded organization with a new strategic plan, sound finances and a great future. I know you will give Frank Thorp the same support and encouragement you have given to me. Thanks, Chuck Connor

Navy's Spokeswoman promoted to Rear Admiral



Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus gives the oath of office to Capt. Dawn Cutler at her promotion to rear admiral. U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Peter D. Lawlor.

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Stuart Phillips,
Defense Media Activity

ARLINGTON, Va. (NNS) -- The United States Navy promoted Dawn E. Cutler to the rank of rear admiral lower half during a ceremony at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, Sept. 3.

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus spoke about Cutler's past performance as a public affairs officer (PAO) and commended her ability to step into the role as the Navy's acting Chief of Information (CHINFO) on short notice nine months ago.

"She was ready, she didn't take any time to get up to speed," said Mabus. "She knew what she had to do and she had the wealth and breadth and depth of experience that a job like this takes. In fact one of the things that has been noticeable about her career - the people she has served as PAO for ... all went on to get four stars from the time she was their PAO. And she was their PAO usually when they had one star. I can't tell you how much I'm looking forward to my next job. Because it is clear the only thing those folks had in common was Dawn Cutler."

The 30th Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Jonathan Greenert, spoke on the importance of the role of CHINFO and the responsibilities that come with the title.

"She will be the chief of all Navy information. And in this world of being hyper connected, information is power. And the management of it is the management of power. And if we do this right, we'll get the Navy's narrative right both externally and internally," said Greenert.

Cutler expressed gratitude for her supportive family and spoke fondly of the ideals instilled by her father, a former Sailor.

"He taught me about service to others, selflessness, dedication, that people are important, and treating them with dignity and respect is a must no matter what," said Cutler. "He taught me that being anchored in faith and having a moral compass is essential. Simply put, if you just do the right thing - you'll be just fine."

Retired Rear Adm. Bill Thompson, the first Navy public affairs flag officer, and Lt.j.g. Kat Dransfield, the Navy's newest public affairs officer, placed one-star shoulder boards on Cutler during the promotion ceremony.

Cutler is a native of Portland, Oregon. She is a 1989 graduate of Oregon State University, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and earned her commission as a General Unrestricted Line Officer through Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps program. She holds a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College.

As the U.S. Navy's Chief of Information, Cutler is the principal spokeswoman for the Department of the Navy and provides strategic counsel to the Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of Naval Operations. She leads the Navy's public affairs community consisting of more than 2,500 active and reserve officer, enlisted and civilian communication professionals.



Rear Adm. Bill Thompson, the first 1650 to be CHINFO, and Lt. j.g. Kat Dransfield, the very newest 1650 at the event, put the admiral's shoulder boards on at the promotion ceremony. Photo by Alan Goldstein. **SEE MORE PHOTOS FROM THE PROMOTION AND PARTY ON PAGE 6.**

Dr. David Dozier presented Norma B. Connelly Award



USNPAA president Charles Connor presents the service award to San Diego State professor, Dr. David Dozier.

USNPAA, in partnership with CHINFO, presented the Norma B. Connelly Public Affairs Service Award to Dr. David Dozier of San Diego State University Oct. 10. Dr. Dozier was recognized at the co-creator, professor,

and “Plankowner” of the Navy Public Affairs graduate education program at San Diego State University from 2005 to 2013. Working with then-CHINFO, Rear Adm. “T” McCreary, Dr. Dozier established the program that has resulted in 66 Navy Public Affairs Officers and 20 from the other military Services earning a master’s degree in communication with a specialization in mass communication and media studies.

Dr. Dozier, in Washington, D.C., for the Public Relations Society of America conference, was being honored with an alumni and friends reception to celebrate his retirement when the PA community surprised him with the award. As agreed at the establishment of the award, USNPAA provides the elegant plaque, which this time had the new logo inscribed.

Navy Communicators get social on the web

USNPAA members are increasingly finding that the Internet is the best way to keep up with each other and the Navy PA community. Although this is only second *Sightings* in six months, USNPAA has both a destination web site (www.usnpaa.org) and its own group Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/groups/usnpaaa) that is kept up more regularly.

Anyone can see our web site, which has undergone an update to include the new logo and the new name. If you want to be part of the USNPAA group on Facebook, you first must be a member of Facebook and then you search for “USNPAA” and send a message to the group that you want to join.

The USNPAA group on Facebook is only one great choice to see what your friends and colleagues are thinking about. The “Navy Communicators” group was created to serve as a collaboration and communication forum for active and Reserve Navy public affairs officers, mass communication specialists and civilians with questions and information regarding all things Navy communications.

Once again you must be a member of Facebook to request to join the group. Just put “Navy Communicators” in the search line to find it. Requests to be added to this group are cross-referenced with the Navy PA Directory.

Another Facebook network for current and former US Navy

Public Affairs professionals (officers, enlisted and civilians) to exchange experiences, lessons learned and new ideas is the “US Navy public affairs professionals” group. This community of interest serves to support one another with regards to social media, visual information, public affairs questions and doctrine. Find it on Facebook by searching the group name above.

Options other than Facebook include Twitter, where one finds a number of individual PAOs holding forth on various topics. In addition to “U.S. Navy,” it is possible to follow “Rear Adm. John Kirby,” former CHINFO who is now the chief Pentagon spokesman, and tweets multiple times daily.

Vietnam Remembered: A father and son return

By Bill Graves, Capt., USN (ret.)

Next year marks 50 years since the Vietnam War became what the Vietnamese now call it, the "American War." It was March of 1965 when we began making air strikes in North Vietnam in Operation Rolling Thunder, and when 3,500 Marines splashed ashore at Danang.

That summer I was in Saigon. It also the summer that my son, Chris, was born. I promised myself then that someday we would visit Saigon together.

This past March we did. Our tour began in Hanoi and ended two weeks later in Saigon.

After the war, the victors in Hanoi renamed Saigon. It's now Ho Chi Minh City. Apparently, Air Vietnam didn't get the word as the tags on our checked bags said "SGN." It's a stupid name anyway for an exciting, exotic city like Saigon.

Hanoi's intention may have been to blunt the indelible influence that the French and Americans had here - it's now the most prosperous city in South East Asia.

The gold-star flag that flew over Hanoi during the war, now flies on the roof of the Rex, which is now a 5-star hotel. Anybody who was in Saigon during the war knows how much that roof-top bar meant to Americans. Hanoi won; I get that. Still, I took the flag, placed where it is, as a personal affront. My sole retaliation: I swiped a coaster that says "Rooftop."

Our job in Saigon was to represent the Seventh Fleet. A group of us - including Lieutenants Jim Mathews, Jimmy Finkelstein - rotated TAD out of CINCPACFLT, that year, to COMSEVENTHFLT DET CHARLIE in Saigon. The Army ran the public affairs operation in Vietnam and had little interest in telling the story of the 25,000 Navy guys off the coast. We were there to fix that, which we did. We played

by the Army's rules, but we ran our own shop that was, in essence, in our briefcases. We had a photo mate with us named Charlie Eggleston. He went back to the states, I think in 1966, and got out of the Navy. Then he returned to Saigon as a free lance photographer. He was later killed covering combat operations.

He is remembered here in the War Remnants Museum in Saigon. One room, called the "Requiem," is dedicated to the photojournalists, and their work, who were killed in the war on both sides. A plaque there lists the names of 16 American combat photographers including Charles Richard Eggleston. **[see below]**

Ty Many, Vantha.
GERMANY : Dieter Bellendorf.
UNITED STATES : Robert Capa, Sam Castan,
Dickey Chapelle, Charles Richard Eggleston,
Robert Jackson Ellison, Sean Flynn,
Ronald D. Gallagher, Neil K. Hulbert,
Bernard Kolenberg, Oliver E. Noonan, Kent Potter,
Everette Dixie Reese, Terry Reynolds, Jerry A. Rose,
Dana Stone, Peter Ronald Van Thiel.
FRANCE : Claude Arpin-pont, Francis Bailly,
Gilles Caron, Franz Dalma, Bernard B. Fall,
Gerard Hebert, Henri Huet, Pierre Jahan,

In preparation for the trip, both Chris and I did a lot of reading. Some of the books were written by guys many of us in Vietnam knew and work with: Morley Safer, Peter Arnett, Neil Sheehan, David Halberstam and David Lamb. They are all worth reading. But I especially recommend to anyone in our business, "Once Upon a Distant War," by William Prochnau. It is a brilliant examination of the craft of war reporting and of those who did it here in the early sixties.

I also recommend a personal "return to Vietnam" to my fellow PAOs and JOs who were here during the war. Saigon has lost the ghosts of its wartime past, but the city still has the charm of its beautiful people and the soul of a hustler.

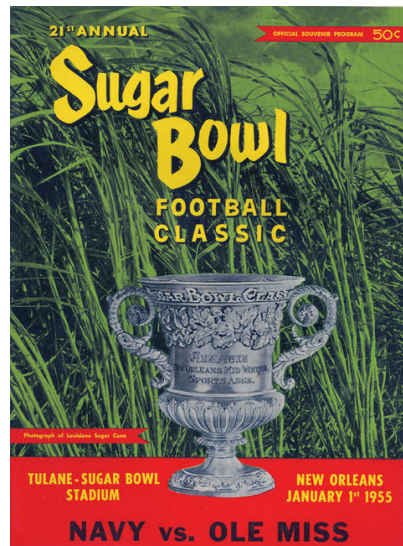
Navy PAOs make their mark on Navy Football

This Fall marks the 60th anniversary of the Naval Academy's famed "Team Named Desire" that beat Army and became the 1955 Sugar Bowl Champions. At that time no Navy team had played in a bowl since 1924. They ended the season fifth in the nation. More than half of the team became senior officers in the Navy, Marine Corps or Air Force and seven became flag officers -- two marines and five navy flags.

Among the Sugar Bowl starting eleven were two 1650s-to-be from the class of 1955 -- Alex Aronis and Jack Garrow. Aronis, a bodybuilder and runner up to Mr. California before entering the Naval Academy, was a guard. Garrow was a running back and split receiver on offense and a safety and corner back on defense. He also ran back punts and kickoffs. In those years players played both offense and defense. Another 1650-to-be, the late Clark Gammell, while not on the starting team was also a Navy football player.

Aronis served in PAO billets until he changed his designator and became a Navy chaplain, retiring as a commander. Since retirement he has served in several missions abroad. Gammell had a full, productive career as a public affairs officer, retiring as a captain from the Fleet Hometown News Center.

Garrow was selected to flag rank in 1982 and served as the Chief of Information for four years, retiring in 1986. After retirement he became the vice president of communications for Newport News Shipbuilding and the president and founding partner of Summit Consulting.



In 2007 he was inducted into the first class of the Sports Legends Hall of Fame in his home area of California. He was selected in the best all-around athlete category. In high school he had earned eight varsity letters in four sports -- football, basketball, baseball and track. He was twice all-county in football and baseball and played in the California state all-star baseball game. In track he ran high and low hurdles, as well as the sprint relays. In his senior year he won every high hurdles race he entered, including the California North Coast Championship. At Navy he was a starter on an undefeated

plebe football team and the 1955 Sugar Bowl team. He also made Navy's only touchdown in the 1953 Army-Navy game. He was Navy's leading high hurdler his junior and senior years. As a lieutenant, while serving as the Naval Academy's public affairs officer, he coached defensive backs on the plebe team.

When asked for a comment, Admiral Garrow said, "I have had the privilege of playing with some of the finest men you would ever want to meet. It's my honor to this day to call them friends and teammates. As far as athletics go now, I don't run the high hurdles anymore!!"



Looking for a Kitty Hawk PAO to claim his ring!

Fox News in Seattle has been helping a Federal Way homeowner look for the owner of the ring at left since July. It has not been claimed yet and has a distinguishing engraving that the owner should know. It was dug up in a homeowner's yard by her dog and one can clearly read "USN PAO" on it. See more photos and find out how to claim the ring at this story:

<http://q13fox.com/2014/07/10/found-help-reunite-this-retired-sailors-ring-with-its-owner/-axzz37A48JaEp>

USNPAA Members Support the CHINFO Promotion



Rear Adm. Dawn Cutler addresses the audience following her promotion, Sep. 3.
Photo by Alan Goldstein



Rear Adm. Kendell Pease, USN (ret.), and Chief of Information from Aug. 1992 to May 1998, poses with Cmdr. Karen Jeffries, USN (ret.) and Capt. Beci Brenton, USN (ret.), at the reception following the promotion. **Photo by Cate Mueller.**



Capt. Jim Noone, USN (ret.), and Capt. Bruce Cole, USN (ret.) and current Asst. Chief of Information for Requirements, Policy and Professional Development Chief of Information from Aug. 1992 to May 1998, enjoy the event. **Photo by Cate Mueller.**



Eighteen current and former Public Affairs flag officers got together for dinner in September in Alexandria, Virginia, to share stories. Seated in front are current CHINFO, Dawn Cutler, and the first designated Public Affairs Officer in the Navy, Bill Thompson. Standing (l to r) are Joe Callo, Craig Quigley, Jim Finkelstein, Kendell Pease, Bob Ravitz, Brent Baker, Jack Garrow, Greg Slavonic, Tom Jurkowsky, Ken Braithwaite, Vic Beck, John Kirby, Steve Pietropaoli, Greg Smith, Frank Thorp and Denny Moynihan. **Photo by bartender...can you tell?**

New beginnings for USNPAA members

With all the social media available these days, it sometimes seems like we know what everyone is doing all time... from vacations to menu choices for recent meals. The listing provided here will likely not compete with the latest information you have on your closer friends from Navy public affairs, but here are just a few choice bits of information passed along to your *Sightings* editor and repeated here for your interest. Do you know something we don't? Send it in for eventual publication to catemueller2013@gmail.com OR by mail (that's the thing that needs a stamp!) to 5408 Duxford Pl., Burke, VA 22015. I apologize in advance if any of the folks featured here have already moved to different positions since I received the initial note!

Joseph L. Quimby, Cmdr., USN (ret.) started a new job in September as the Team Lead in the Office of Communications and Quality Management at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Office of Regulatory Affairs. Joe is assigned to the Silver Spring, Md., headquarters but continues to work from the Atlanta Regional/District office.

Hal Pittman, Rear Adm., USN (ret.) became the director of external communications for the Arizona Public Service in May. APS is Arizona's largest and longest serving electric utility, providing power for nearly 1.2 million customers in 11 of the state's 15 counties. Hal also serves on several sports oriented boards, including as a director for the USA Bobsled & Skeleton Federation.

Gary Shrout, Cmdr., USN (ret.) has retired (again) after a total of 37 years of public service. After retiring from the Navy in 2000, Gary spent another 13 years with Naval Air Systems Command, retiring as the PAO and Strategic Communication Coordinator for the Naval Aviation Enterprise. He now hopes to take over as *Sightings* editor in his copious free time if he can wrest it away from the current editor (Gary, call me!!)

In our prayers...

Nathan Jones, Rear Adm., USNR (ret.) is fighting lymphoma with aggressive treatment at MD Anderson hospital in Houston, Texas. He's had recent encouraging news on progress in beating back the T cell lymphoma and has been continuing chemotherapy in preparation for stem cell regeneration. Send him a word of encouragement at nj1655@aol.com!

And may there be no moaning of the bar, When I put out to sea

Sightings has received news of the passing of two lifetime USNPAA members in the last few months. The headline is from an Alfred, Lord Tennyson poem, "Crossing the Bar" and may reflect usual sentiment of a Navy Sailor; however, we still want to note those shipmates we've lost. If you know a PAO who should be mentioned here, please send the information to the editor (see contact information in article above).

Ray Robinson Jr., Capt., USN (ret.) died April 14, 2014, at 90. He started his career as a naval aviator and then moved through assignments in CHINFO, Naples, Italy, and Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic. After a successful post-Navy career in Nashville, he and his wife Bee retired to Oahu, Hawaii. [Read more at the Honolulu Star-Advertiser.](#)

Ken Mitchell, former PAO, Naval Station, North Island, died June 22, 2014, after battling inoperable colon cancer for nearly a year. He mentored many San Diego and Coronado-based PAOs during his 25 years at NASNI. Read his obituary in the [Coronado Eagle & Journal.](#)