

"On Target...On Time...
Day or Night...Any Weather"

The Windscreen

A quarterly publication of The Intruder Association

www.intruderassociation.org

Vol 2, No 1 Spring 2004



**1st NATIONAL A-6
INTRUDER
ASSOCIATION
REUNION
2004**

**Held in conjunction with:
"Hook '04"
9-12 Sep 04
Reno, NV**



Dates: 9-12 Sep 04
Location: John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel
1100 Nugget Avenue
P.O. Box 797
Sparks, NV 89432-0797
Phone: 1-800-648-1177

Call The Nugget Hotel, and ask for a reservation under the "Tailhook Rate" (\$96 plus tax, plus \$3 energy fee). Hotel shuttles run from the airport to hotel every 15 minutes up until 2100. Cancellation policy is 48-hours prior.

****They will sell-out the rooms, so make your reservation early!****

Events: "Intruder Happy Hour" – 1800 to 1930 on Thursday, 9 Sep 04.
"Intruder Dinner" – 1930 to 2200 on Thursday, 9 Sep 04.
"Intruder Breakfast" – 0730 to 0900 on Saturday, 11 Sep 04.

Visit "The Intruder Association" website (www.intruderassociation.org) to sign up.

Specific questions or offers to help with Reunion Committee efforts can be directed to: Mike Bryan at iamwingnut@aol.com

From Membership

In the last 8 months we have grown from only 480 active members to over 750 active members. Thanks to all of you that are getting the word out to the bubbas. We use email and the website as our main forms of communication. I have almost 70 members with out of date email addresses. Please go to the 'Members Only' portion of the website and verify your email address. Send any corrections to membership@intruderassociation.org.
Thanks.

From the President

Spring has finally happened in the Pacific Northwest after a long dark (and wet) winter. We had an Intruder rendezvous last month in Seattle. In addition to telling lots of "expanded" stories from the past, there was a great deal of discussion about the upcoming Intruder Reunion to be held in Reno this September. Those of us that attended Tailhook last year were very impressed with the entire event. I had not been to a 'Hook since the move was made from Las Vegas to Reno. What you have now is a world class gathering of active duty, retired, reserve and industry to take stock of carrier aviation over the last year and in the future.

The Nugget has been a great host for the Tailhook Association. It is great to see the flight suits and patches and logos everywhere. The displays by industry are really impressive and give a glimpse into what the future holds. However the thing that struck me the most was the spirit of pride in what carrier aviation has done and how important it is to the future of our county.

There was a good showing from Intruder types last year - in fact at a Saturday breakfast we had over 80 attendees. It was great to see old friends and relive some great times. My wife had never been to a Hook (as I remember in those days wives just didn't go...) and she had a great time - many of the Intruder wives were there and everyone I talked with wanted to return this year.

Mike Bryan has been leading the effort along with some other key players like Clyde Cain and Mike Munson. He has put together a great program that will run concurrently with, but not conflict any Tailhook event. We will have a cocktail party/dinner on Thursday the 9th of Sept and a breakfast on Saturday the 11th. In addition there will be a hospitality suite for Intruders and a bag of goodies. As a added attraction, Rick and Mark Morgan will be there to release their just finished book covering the history of the Intruder. This is all in addition to the great Hook events like the Friday Mixer, the panel discussions, golf tournament, and banquet.

What I have seen so far is that small groups of friends are getting together to attend and when they mention that to other friends, the circle expands. Please make that call to get everyone headed to Reno 9-12 September. All the info is available on both our website and Tailhook's site.

Finally, we lost two Intruders who had made significant contributions to the Intruder Association. Both Fred House and Roger Lerseth were the kind of guys who were willing to take time to work on projects like the IA, ANA, the River Rats to name a few. It is important to recognize their efforts over and above the significant achievements both made while sitting in the cockpit of A-6s. I knew them both, respected them immensely and will miss not having their counsel going forward.

I hope to see as many of you as possible in Reno.

Best regards,



John Schork

This aircraft is now proudly displayed at NAS Patuxent River after being rescued from behind a PW building at PAX. An all volunteer effort to "re-work" the aircraft resulted in the finished product. The aircraft proudly displays the names CAPT Steve "Axel" Hazelrigg and CDR Bill "Catfish" Davis.

Thanks to CAPT T. P. Phelan, Commander, Naval Test Wing Atlantic for getting this out to us.

If you have any A-6E photo stories you'd like in the newsletter or posted on the website send them to me at membership@intruderassociation.org.

BEFORE AND AFTER



A-6E Intruder 159568



**Down
Memory Lane**



MARINE CORPS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation is a non-profit organization established to provide educational assistance to the sons and daughters of Marines.

Approximately 42 years ago, BGen. Martin F. Rockmore read about a Marine veteran's child who could not afford to go to college. Rockmore decided to take action by calling on the support of his fellow Marine reserves, and formed a Scholarship Foundation. In that first year, the newly-formed Foundation raised sufficient funds for one scholarship.

Since that first scholarship, the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation has come a long way. To date, it has awarded more than 18,000 scholarships valued at approximately \$21.5 million. In addition, the Foundation presented education bonds to children whose parent died in the bombing of the Beirut barracks in 1983 or was killed in the line of duty during the 1991 Gulf War. These bonds were awarded regardless of the branch of service of the deceased parent.

Foundation awarded over \$1.5 million in scholarships to 982 students for the 2003-2004 academic year. What it all boils down to is that this Foundation helps young men and women to achieve their dreams and to reach their potential..

Children of active or former Marines and Navy Corpsmen can apply for scholarships. Scholarships are renewable annually for up to four years. Applications can be downloaded from the Foundation's web site.

In addition to providing support for the children of former Marines who lost their lives in the tragedies of September 11, 2001, the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation also has pledged that every child of a Marine, and of a Navy Corpsman serving in combat with the Marines, whose parent is killed in action will receive higher education scholarship assistance of at least \$10,000. Right now, between Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom, there are more than 90 youngsters that will receive the Foundation's help.

In this time of conflict, the Marines stationed across the globe need our support. To help the Foundation meet its obligation to all of these deserving youngsters, anyone interested in helping the Foundation can do so by contacting the Foundation: **1-866-IWO-JIMA** (toll free) or by going to the website: www.marine-scholars.org.

Donations can be sent to: **Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box 3008, Princeton, NJ 08543-3008** or credit card donations can be made directly from the website.

And here's one we've wanted to see.



In Remembrance



House, Fred

Wednesday, 21 Jan 2004

Fred House, a long-time resident of the Northwest, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly Jan. 21, 2004. He was 56.

Fred was born Sept. 3, 1947, in Cornwall, N.Y., to Mr. and Mrs. Harry House, He was raised in Monroe, N.Y., where he lived through high school.

Following his graduation from Marist College in 1969 Fred joined the Navy. After obtaining his ensign commission, he was assigned to naval Flight Officer's School and earned his NFO wings of gold. Fred was assigned to Attack Squadron 128, Whidbey Island Naval Air Station as a fleet replacement bombardier-navigator in the A-6 Intruder where he received his advanced training in all-weather low-level attack flying. Upon graduation from VA-128, Fred was assigned to VA-52 Knight Riders aboard the USS Kitty Hawk in the South China Seas, conducting air strikes over Vietnam. Fred completed two combat tours with VA-52 and flew more than 200 combat missions. He was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses, nine individual Air Medals, 19 Strike Flight Air Medals, 3 Navy Commendation Medals with the combat V and numerous other individual, campaign and unit awards.

Following his combat tours, Fred was an instructor in the A-6 Intruder until his resignation from active duty in 1977. Fred continued his Navy connection as a simulator instructor and flight crew trainer at NAS Whidbey Island. He also maintained a photography business until moving from Oak Harbor to Anacortes.

He was employed at Sundowner Products, Inc. of Bothell, as a custom cabinet fabricator. Fred was the acting secretary/treasurer of his neighborhood homeowner's association. He remained active in the naval aviation community, devoting much of his free time to maintaining the Intruder Association Web site, and contributing to various Navy functions and projects. He is survived by his wife, Annabelle House of Anacortes; three sons, Andrew House of Ellensburg, Phillip Bernhardt-House of Cork, Ireland, and Sherman House of Spokane; daughter, Allison House of Hilo, Hawaii; sister, Susan Gagliardi of Clermont, Fla.

Memorials are suggested to 141019042 c/o Annabelle House Donation Account, "The House Children College Fund," Whidbey Island Bank, P.O. Box 320, Anacortes, WA 98221. Funeral services were held Jan. 27 at St. Joseph's Chapel, NAS Whidbey Island. Interment followed at Grand View Cemetery, Anacortes. A reception was held at St. Mary Catholic Church, Anacortes. Arrangements are in the care of Evans Funeral Chapel, Anacortes

In Remembrance



Lerseth, Roger Gene

Saturday, 27 Mar 2004

CDR Roger Gene Lerseth, USN (Ret.), 57, 24-year Oak Harbor resident and former Vietnam POW, died at his home March 27, 2004, following a brief illness.

CDR Lerseth was born Oct. 24, 1946, in Belle Fourche, S.D., to Orville and Lillian (Heggem) Lerseth. He was raised in Belle Fourche, S.D., and Spokane, where he graduated from West Valley High School. He earned a BA in economics from the University of Washington in June 1969 and was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy through the NROTC program.

Designated a naval flight officer in 1970, he qualified in the A-6 Intruder at Oceana Naval Air Station, joining VA-75 aboard the USS Saratoga (CV-60) for a 1971 Mediterranean deployment followed by a 1972 combat deployment to Southeast Asia. On Sept. 6, 1972, then-Lt. Lerseth was shot down over North Vietnam. Seriously injured from his ejection, he was captured and held by the North Vietnamese in the infamous Hanoi Hilton prison.

Upon release in February 1973, he was hospitalized at Oak Knoll Naval Hospital, Oakland, Calif., to recover from his injuries. After obtaining his MBA from Old Dominion University, he returned to flight duty in 1976 in VA-35, participating in the first deployment of the nuclear carrier USS Nimitz (CVN-68). In January 1979, he was assigned to the U.S. Naval Academy as an instructor and academic advisor. In 1981, following transition training at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station in the new A-6 TRAM aircraft, he served as VA-95 operations officer aboard the USS America (CVA-66) and the USS Enterprise (CVN-65).

In 1982, following recurring medical problems from his combat injuries, he was reassigned as A-6 plans and program manager at COMMATVAQWINGPAC. He then served as officer in charge, Naval Support Activity, Gaeta, Italy, followed by assignment as a financial manager and operations analyst at the Naval Center for Cost Analysis. His last active naval assignment was as a faculty member of the Strategy and Policy Department, Naval War College, Newport, R.I., from which he retired in August, 1994. He received a Ph.D. in political science from Boston University in 2001.

His decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross (five awards), the Bronze Star with Combat V, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), five individual and seven Strike/Flight Air Medals, the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V (two awards), and the Naval Achievement Medal, among other personal and unit citations.

A patron of naval aviation, he was vice-president of the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association; commanding officer, Whidbey Island Squadron, Association of Naval Aviation; and a member of the NAMPOWs, 4th Allied POW Wing.

Roger is survived by his wife of 23 years, Capt. Christine Picchi, NC, USN(Ret) of Oak Harbor; his mother, Lillian Lerseth of Spokane; and two sisters, JoAnn Lerseth of Spokane and Laurretta Rozell and husband Eric and their children Cameron and Kelsey, all of Kalispell, Mont. He was preceded in death by his father in 1972.

A memorial service was held Friday, April 2, at 2 p.m. at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station base chapel. Full military honors and inurnment will take place at 1500 May 4th at Arlington National Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association Air Warrior Courage Foundation, PO Box 882, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538.

Flight Of The Intruder



The Mission - Attack

1. The mission of the aircraft carrier is to put ordnance on target. Everything else such as Indian Country, unreps, "the grid", SSC, and anything else starting with F- is simply support for the attack mission.
2. You win the war by killing the bastards by the thousands, not one at a time at twenty thousand feet.
3. In peacetime, DCM is something the attack pilot uses to rejoin off the range.
4. In wartime, DCM is something the attack pilot uses to turn and shoot some asshole in the face who's trying to stop the attack pilot before he destroys his high value target.
5. There is no such thing as "defensive" DCM. I become offended when someone jumps me enroute to my target, and much offense is intended when I have to take the time to blow his ass off.
6. Concerning the tally of Medal of Honor winners in southeast Asia, the score tells it all: Attack – 5, Fighter - 0.
7. In wartime, our POW's were not released because the enemy sent representatives to sit smugly at "peace talks". They were not released because domestic antiwar groups unwittingly played into the hands of the enemy, and tied the hands of their countrymen at arms. They were not released because the enemy lost five aircraft to a select few called "aces". They were released because brave men took their bombers downtown and spoke personally to their captors in the only language the enemy understands: Iron bombs raining down on their heads.
8. These lessons have been forged in blood and steel by all those attack pilots and bombardiers who have gone before you; back when happiness was flying Spads; back when jets were hard-lightin' and mean, and only quiche-eatin' airline pukers flew fans; back when Spads roamed valleys and spit death to those who would try to stop them; in an earlier time when the biggest cadillac in town was called BUFF and when men took pride in decorating their leather flight jackets with "I've been there" patches, and the enemy hid every 1 + 45 because he knew the next cycle of the attack carrier was headed his way. Times change, technology changes, but the men in the cockpit must be the same brave warriors every age has counted upon in time of peril.
9. Finally, and this is the bottom line, real men fly attack because they understand the most fundamental law of wartime negotiations; you negotiate with the enemy with your knee in his chest and your knife at his throat.

Final Note

For the interim I have assumed the duties of the Intruder Association's Secretary. If you have anything you wish to have put in the newsletter please send them to me at membership@intruderassociation.org and I will do my best to get it in the next publication. Deadline dates are as follows:
15 Jun, 15 Sep, 15 Dec and 15 March.

If you are interested in taking a more active role in the organization please let me know and I will be glad to talk with you about what we can use.

Thanks, Steve 'Caz' McCaslin