



BLUE SHARKS ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
SUBCONSCIOUS

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"SUBCONSCIOUS"
 (1924 - 1993)



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VP-6 Website		www.vp-6.org

President's Opening

"Flight" to "All Stations"

Aloha BLUE SHARKS,
It is the Memorial Day holiday weekend as I write this. I hope all of our SHIPMATES enjoyed quality time with family and friends. That made me think about and to dig up this quote I received awhile back via email. It is appropriate for all of us BLUE SHARKS:
"NEVER FORGET YOUR FRIENDS!"

A newlywed young man was sitting on the porch on a humid day, sipping ice tea with his Father. As he talked about adult life, marriage, responsibilities, and obligations, the Father thoughtfully stirred the ice cubes in his glass and cast a clear, sober look on his Son. "Never forget your friends," he advised, "they will become more important as you get older." "Regardless of how much you love your family and the children you happen to have, you will always need friends. Remember to go out with them occasionally (if possible), but keep in contact with them somehow."

"What strange advice" thought the young man. I just entered the married world, I am an adult and surely my wife and the family that we will start will be everything I need to make sense of my life." Yet, he obeyed his Father; kept in touch with his friends and annually increased their number. Over the years, he became aware that his Father knew what he was talking about. In as much as time and nature carry out their designs and mysteries on a person, friends are the bulwarks of our life. After 81 years of life, here is what he, I and you will have learned: Time passes. Life goes on. Children grow up.

Children cease to be children and become independent. And to the parents, it breaks their heart but the children are

separated of the parents because they begin their own families. Jobs / careers come and go. Illusions, desires, attraction, sex....weakens.

People can't do what they did physically when they were young. Parents die but you move on. Colleagues forget the favors you did. The race to achieve slows. But, true friends are always there, no matter how long or how many miles away they are. A friend is never more distant than the reach of a need, intervening in your favor, waiting for you with open arms or in some way blessing your life.

When we started this adventure called LIFE, we did not know of the incredible joys or sorrows that were ahead. We did not know how much we would need from each other. Love your parents, take care of your children, but keep a group of good friends. Stay in touch with them but do not impose your criteria."

I have frequently been heard guest speaking at military retirements and Change of Commands relating, in part, the following; "As young, energetic, and motivated people we come into the military to fly fast airplanes, drive powerful tanks, shoot cool weapons, drive big and small fast ships, and the like. We stay in the military past our initial enlistments because of the outstanding people! It is said you do heroic things because of love for the folks next to you in the foxhole or ship or airplane. It is "the great people" that makes being in the military worthwhile for all of us.

We may not realize it until later in life, but this true and it is the reason for the existence of organizations like our own PSBSA (PATRON SIX BLUE SHARKS ASSOCIATION)! I come to our reunions with my family because I truly enjoy being with my SHIPMATES and their families from "my

time era" in the squadron, but also to be with my SHIPMATES and their families from "every other BLUE SHARKS squadron era in time." Now you know.

If you have never been to one of our reunions, give it a try. I believe you will enjoy yourself and I know you will hear at least one "BLUE SHARK war story" that you had not heard before. Go to our Association website (VP-6.org) and click on the Texas state outline to register to attend our 2019 PSBSA Reunion in San Antonio. www.VP-6.org/Reunion If you need help with your registration, please make contact with me at (President@vp-6.org) or any of the other Association key volunteers listed under the "[CONTACT US](#)" tab at the bottom of the Association web "HOME" page.

We have great BLUE SHARKS volunteers who will make that happen easily for you. If you wish to join our Association, you can do that using the "NEW MEMBER SIGN UP" tab at the top of the Association web "HOME" page. See you in San Antonio in October! [New Member Sign up](#)

Hank Herbig
PSBSA President

Vice-President

ALL Engines Ahead FULL

Aloha,

Terry Snyder AW1 (NAC/AW) USN Ret.
VP-6 Era November 1982 - February 1987

Secretary

Memo's

Greetings fellow shipmates.

Don Bailey
VP6 Photographer

Treasurer

The Bucks Stop here

Tom Mullins

Membership

Gam o' Sharks

Active:
Expired:
Pending:
RIP's:

Gary Wertz

Webmaster

Get Your Geek On

Soon the VP-6.org website's **non-member database will be deleted**. You may find yourself asking "Why?" and maybe "Why do I care?" Well, the answer is that the cost to maintain the database for folks who are not members is taking quite a chunk out of our bottom dollar. Once we delete the non-member database, these folks will no longer be receiving any information or email communications as they have in the past.

To quote the 1970's American Express Commercials featuring Karl Malden "Membership has its privileges!"



For those of you who are of the 80's generation,



Nobody rides for free. And, it goes without saying "Ca\$h" is what we are looking for out of those three options. To become a member, follow the instructions that are in Hank's write-up above. Lastly, make sure to log in to the website and update your profile ASAP.

VP-6 Email Address SOP:

*To email all **active** members use this email address:
BlueSharkAssoc@vp-6.org
and an email will go out to all active members.

Randy Silbaugh
Webmaster

Upcoming Reunion

San Antonio, Tx Oct 2019

News from the Reunion Committee Chairman

The time is fast approaching to pack your bags and head to the next location.



Speaking of the 2019 reunion in San Antonio, your planning team worked hard to get the hotel and activity arrangements in place. Our site coordinator, Dewey Vigus, and Treasurer Tom Mullins have been on the job getting everything ready to make this a super

reunion. Headquarters central is with the Holiday Inn Waterside. If you haven't signed up, what are you waiting for? Check out the website for all the details



FUTURE REUNION PLANNING - In advance of the upcoming reunion, it's time to start the dialog for the following year's reunion locations. With this comes the need for members to assist the Board and Reunion Committee with the location choices and getting a volunteer to serve as the site coordinator. To date we have picked these as possible locations for the next few year's sites. These include locations with possible site coordinators: Seattle/Whidbey Island, WA (Bo Miller); Tucson/Phoenix, AZ (Norb Okoniewski); Norfolk/Virginia Beach, VA (Hank Herbig); Denver, CO (Don Bailey); Boise, ID (George Gammon); Gatlinburg, TN (Steve Ellis); and Charleston, SC (Hank Herbig).

During the next membership meeting, we will be voting on where to have the next year's reunion. To help with making that choice, we would like the site coordinators to provide a short briefing on what your reasoning is and what activities are in the area. What we are looking for is local attractions, possible tours of interest and hotels with conference capabilities - local chambers of commerce will provide most of the information if you let them know our association is interested. If anyone has other sites to offer and/or wants to volunteer to be a site coordinator, please let me know, I can help you put together a short presentation for the membership. Jimlv6@comcast.net or phone at 703-727-7944.

Obits

RIP: Farewell & Following Seas

AE2 Colleen Maxwell 2018

She served in VP-6 during the late 80's. Her favorite activities were sailing, surfing and diving/snorkeling. Details will be posted on the website soon.



Veterans Affairs

Blue Water Update

Benefits for 'blue water' veterans finalized after years-long fight.

By: [Leo Shane III](#) June 26, 2019

The "[blue water](#)" [Vietnam veterans benefits act](#) is now law. Late Tuesday night, President Donald Trump signed [the legislation](#), which grants presumptive status for disability benefits to an estimated 90,000 Navy veterans who served in the seas around Vietnam during the war. Unlike their fellow service members stationed on the ground and on inland waterways, those veterans faced additional paperwork barriers to prove exposure to [toxic defoliants](#) during their deployments, even after developing identical serious cancers and respiratory illnesses.

Advocates had long complained that put an unfair burden on the aging veterans, since water monitoring records from decades ago were inaccessible or non-existent. The higher proof of exposure blocked most so-called "blue water" veterans from eligibility for benefits, which can total several thousand dollars a month.

A federal appeals court in January overturned Veterans Affairs officials' policy of denying the Navy veterans claims, and lawmakers followed in subsequent months with a legislative fix to reinforce the legal ruling.

Last week, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said during a Senate hearing that even before passage of the new legislation, department staff have already begun processing the claims.

"We are working with the Department of Defense and the Department of Navy to make sure that we have those adequate lists (of eligible veterans)," he said. "I cannot tell you now the numbers. I can tell you we are working on them. I will promise to come back to (Congress) if we need additional resources."

Numerous veterans groups, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion, have praised Congress for the action.

However, John Wells, retired Navy commander and the executive director of Military-Veterans Advocacy (which helped file the blue water lawsuit), has criticized the legislation in recent weeks for potentially limiting the scope of veterans affected by adopting a different definition of the area covered than the court ruling.

Trump signed legislation granting presumptive status for disability benefits to an estimated 90,000 Navy veterans who served in the seas around Vietnam during the war. (AP Photo)

Click link for more details:

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2019/06/26/benefits-for-blue-water-veterans-finalized-after-years-long-fight/>

Johnston Atoll Island Update

If you have ever been to this island in a military capacity or know of someone who had, especially during the decades when the nuclear testing was in its height, this applies to you. This account is from Tony Hodge:

While on site sometime in the mid-60's, by Tony's account, "We got sprayed "accidentally" so any flight crew members who were there are immediately eligible for VA benefits. What went completely unsaid is the part that Johnston Atoll had a failed nuclear test launch the year before and when the rocket exploded it showered the island with Plutonium! Yes, it was a mini Chernobyl! No one disclosed any information that we were in a nuclear waste pile as were the contractors from Holmes and Narver."

There are many links out there on this topic. Here is one that I found.

<https://www.wiseinternational.org/nuclear-monitor/536/radiation-johnston-atoll-cleaning-cold-war>

Thanks to Tony Hodge for the information



History

History o' Sharks:

Brian Tourville

Newsletter Editor

Helpful Information

Thanks to all of those who sent me noteworthy shares from the squadron's past. It is what makes the newsletter interesting and informative. Keep them coming.

Pamela Silbaugh

Shark Shares

Navy P-8A Discovers Men Stranded On Uninhabited Island After Skiff Capsized

By: **Megan Eckstein**

April 11, 2016 4:48 PM



Two men wave life jackets and look on as a U.S. Navy P-8A maritime surveillance aircraft discovers them on the uninhabited island of

Fanadik, in the Federated States of Micronesia. US Navy photo.

The crew of a U.S. Navy P-8A Poseidon maritime surveillance aircraft located three men stranded on an uninhabited island in the Federated States of Micronesia last week, after the men swam ashore and wrote "help" on the beach with palm leaves.

On April 4 the men's 19-foot skiff capsized in a large wave after they set sail from Pulap, FSM, according to a Navy statement. They said they spent hours swimming and finally reached the uninhabited Fandadik Island, about four nautical miles away. The men were not injured but were stranded on the island.

The Coast Guard's Sector Guam Command Center received notification from a search and rescue liaison on Tuesday morning, after the men in the skiff failed to arrive on the island on Weno, according to a Navy post on Facebook. Coast Guard watchstanders coordinated with Patrol Squadron (VP) 5 out of Misawa, Japan, and other local vessels to assist in the search.

The three men spelled out "help" on the beach with palm leaves and stood nearby waving orange lifejackets, catching the attention of crew members on a P-8 from VP 5, in the midst of a routine deployment in U.S. 7th Fleet. A small boat from Pulap, where the men began their adventure, was sent to pick them up from the island.

Click on Link for more US Navy Pictures and captions of the rescue!

<https://news.usni.org/2016/04/11/navy-p-8a-discovers-men-stranded-on-uninhabited-island-after-skiff-capsized>

Google Maps of Fanadik, Micronesia!



Thanks Hank for sharing!

Ships Store

Get Your Swagger on

If you would like to order any of the items you see, follow the instructions at the ships store. You basically email the Store-Keeper Stuart Woodward and arrange payment and shipping via email. If you have an idea for an item to be created and added to the Ship's Store - contact Woody!

To view items in the ships store click on: <http://www.vp-6.org>

There you will see the picture below. Click on the picture on the website not here!



Sample Item in the Ship's Store:



Current Events!

P8-Always on Patrol

25 Jun 2019

Military.com | By [Oriana Pawlyk](#)



SALON DU BOURGET, PARIS -- Last week, Iran's shutdown of a Navy [RQ-4 Global Hawk](#) drone made the headlines. But the Navy's [P-8A Poseidon](#), a modified Boeing 737-800 specially designed for surveillance that typically carries a crew of nine, was also in the sky watching events unfold.

Iranian leaders said they refrained from shooting down a P-8 transiting in the region, and instead shot down the Global Hawk June 19, claiming the drone violated its airspace. U.S. Central Command officials said neither the RQ-4 nor P-8 entered Iranian airspace that day, but added that U.S. aircraft routinely operate in the region.

The P-8 was nearby when the drone was downed, and captured photos of the incident, CENTCOM officials said Friday. If the Iranians had opted to shoot down a manned aircraft, it likely would've raised the stakes as tensions with the U.S. continue to grow.

It's not the first time a P-8 has made headlines. Earlier this month, a P-8 was also [dispatched to assess the damage](#) two tankers sustained in the Gulf of Oman amid the Iran dispute. The sub-hunter aircraft, which is also used for search and rescue, anti-surface warfare and shipping interdiction, has also been intercepted more than a handful of times by Russian fighters while on missions in the Baltic and Black Seas over the last three years.

In 2015, [the U.S. released audio](#) of the Chinese navy asking a U.S. P-8 in the South China Sea to "please go away quickly!" In 2014, a pair of P-8s was launched [to aid in search for](#) Malaysia Airlines flight MH370.

Click Link below for more details.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/06/25/iran-says-it-almost->

[downed-p-8-surveillance-plane-heres-what-p-8-
does.html?fbclid=IwAR2fGMY2hD6TZFmUFR
x90mit2ATari3tehdTQGYesRhGknyVTi-
UgpxTcqw](https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/27565/the-navys-last-active-duty-p-3c-patrol-squadron-is-on-its-final-deployment?fbclid=IwAR2fGMY2hD6TZFmUFRx90mit2ATari3tehdTQGYesRhGknyVTi-UgpxTcqw)

[https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-
zone/27565/the-navys-last-active-duty-p-3c-
patrol-squadron-is-on-its-final-
deployment?fbclid=IwAR3UZP3lhqjrGwJ1vu3
VHp-mqMqOa76r5dc_E9fXMHsP-
uFWDjq0m1PtLqU](https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/27565/the-navys-last-active-duty-p-3c-patrol-squadron-is-on-its-final-deployment?fbclid=IwAR3UZP3lhqjrGwJ1vu3VHp-mqMqOa76r5dc_E9fXMHsP-uFWDjq0m1PtLqU)

Sharks Extinction

The End of an Era!

The last of the U.S. Navy's active duty P-3C Orion patrol planes are on their final overseas deployments, split between bases in Bahrain and Japan. The six-month rotations in the Middle East and Pacific regions come as the service prepares to retire all of its Orions in active duty units and replace them completely with the new P-8A Poseidon.

The *Whidbey News-Times* was the first to report that P-3Cs from Patrol Squadron Four Zero (VP-40), the "Fighting Marlins," left their main base at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island in Washington state at the end of March 2019 for their sundown deployments to Sheik Isa Air Base in Bahrain and Kadena Air Base in Japan. These Orions replaced their counterparts from Patrol Squadron Four Six (VP-46), the "Grey Knights," at those locations. VP-46's planes returned to Whidbey Island earlier in April 2019.

VP-46 had also deployed P-3Cs to Europe, but VP-40 did not send any of its aircraft to that region, according to reports. VP-46 is now set to enter a six-month transition period to switch over to the new P-8A. VP-40 will do the same after it returns to Whidbey Island.

Click on link below for pictures and the rest of the story.