

U.S. NAVY



"The foundation for a strong naval force has always been its people. They exemplify personal excellence in all they do. They are the continuation of our rich history and proud tradition."

U.S. Navy RAdm. Grady Jackson

A publication of the Whidbey News-Times and NAS Whidbey Crosswind

Navy air base bustled with activity in 1950s

By Steve Berentson

After years of uncertain fate following World War II, the future of Whidbey Island Naval Air Station seemed secure in the mid-50s.

By 1957, when it was featured in the popular Seattle Sunday Times Magazine, the naval air base was bustling with activity.

A watercolor painting on the cover of the Seattle tabloid showed two officers in the foreground, with a P2V patrol bomber and air crew just outside a new \$5 million hangar.

Writer Clark Squire's article opened with an historic perspective, comparing the air station to blockhouses built by early Whidbey Island settlers.

Subsequent to air base construction in 1941, Squire noted, "... the economy of the island changed considerably. The population of Oak Harbor jumped from 376 in 1940 to 2,200. Coupeville also mushroomed and even the mainland cities of Anacortes and Mount Vernon were affected. Fat government payrolls stepped up activities."

Squires tracked quickly through the opening years of air base history, shifting to the post-war period:

"Then came the atomic bomb, ending the war unexpectedly," he wrote. "Within six months Whidbey was placed in a reduced operating status. Personnel, which had reached 8,000 military and 1,000 civilians, was cut drastically."

The reporter then described NAS Whidbey's years on the "comeback trail," which opened with a 1949 recommendation that the air station be developed as the all-type, all-weather Navy field of the Pacific Northwest for supporting fleet and Alaskan operational activities.

By February 1957, Squire reported, "Three airstrips and five hangars handle four patrol squadrons and a fleet aviation service squadron operating from the station. Whidbey also serves as home base for patrol squadrons which rotate from continental United States to overseas duty and return.

"The patrol squadrons," he continued, "conduct peacetime drills in antisubmarine warfare, mine laying for harbor defense and for enemy waters, aerial photography and supply transportation."

Commanding officer at NAS Whidbey was Capt. Paul Emrick, and Rear Adm. John Perry had command of fleet units.

On the front page of the Island County Times on March 7, 1957, readers saw a five-column photograph of the seaplane tender USS Kenneth Whiting, bound for Whidbey Island.

The photo caption read: "Shown here during cruise off California last year, seaplane tender USS Kenneth Whiting is due to arrive at NAS Whidbey Base shortly after 4 p.m. Thursday. All local residents are invited to be on the pier to greet the vessel, first to be based at Whidbey."

An estimated crowd of 1,000 gathered to greet the crew of the Whiting. Oak Harbor Maylor Ray Maylor presented Capt. Bernard Strean with a key to the city and the Oak Harbor High School band and cheerleaders added music and dance.

By April, locals opened their papers to read news of more Navy expansion. U.S. Sen. Henry "Scoop" Jackson announced that Heavy Attack Squadron 2 and Heavy Attack Wing 2 would be transferred here from San Diego, with personnel numbers estimated at 52 officers and 300 enlisted men. Heavy Attack Squadron 4, commanded by Capt. W.H. Weston, had already moved to Whidbey.

Heavy attack squadrons were equipped with the A3D Skywarrior, described as "the best, newest, largest and most powerful carrier-based bomber."

In May, the Island County Times reported that the federal military construction budget included a request of \$9.4 million for NAS Whidbey, much of that money earmarked for a new 10,500-ft.

Jackson, a member of the Senate Subcommittee on Military Construction, announced in August that funding had been approved. While the total "milcon" budget request was slashed 24 percent, requests for funds from military bases in Washington State suffered only a 4 percent cut. Jackson's ability to protect defense allocations grew to a level of national renown as years passed.

Like today, the civilian community strained at times under the pressures of growth at the air base.

Jackson worked hard for approval of



Seaplane tender 'Salisbury Sound.'

funding for a 660-unit Capehart Housing project, described as "government guaranteed, private financed and privately constructed housing for military personnel and their dependents." School officials scrambled to try to keep up with burgeoning enrollment.

A May 9 article in the Oak Harbor News followed the headline: "Low Jet Approach Called Vital for Mirror Landings."



U.S. Navy Capt. Bernard Strean (foreground), skipper of the USS Whiting, receives a key to the city from Oak Harbor Mayor Ray Maylor (arms folded) in this March 7, 1957 welcoming ceremony. Also pictured are Wilbur Gilbert, superintendent of schools; Ted Knutsen, high school principal; Jack Meeter, county commissioner.

"Mirror landings," the story read, "are a newly developed system wherein lights reflected in a mirror are used to guide pilots in for carrier landings. Before this system was developed, it was necessary to have a landing signal officer stand out on the forward end of the flight deck to give hand signals to guide the pilots in. The new system is considered to be greatly superior to the old."

NAS Whidbey Operations Officer Cmdr. K.M. Cushman told the community newspaper the mirror landings would require low-level approaches to three Ault Field runways, "and will include some night landings," which ultimately became commonplace.

Another regular problem for Navy and community leaders was the rumor mill, which by the end of the summer of 1957 was filled with news of looming personnel cutbacks.

Second District Congressman Jack Westland issued a statement denying that action, which indeed proved to be incorrect.

In fact, the community had learned in June a new Heavy Attack Training Unit would be based here "... to provide initial training for the heavy attack squadron crews which at Whidbey are being assigned the carrier-based A3D Skywarrior jet plane."

In July the Skywarrior made the news worldwide when it broke a long-standing record for jet flight-between Moffett Field, Calif. and Honolulu, Hawaii. The flight crew cut seven minutes off a record set by the Air Force B-47 in 1952.

Like aviators who today wait eagerly for development of the A-6 successor, the A-12, Navy officers of '57 talked about squadrons ultimately filled with the new A3D.

"Depending on production schedules," wrote Squire of the Seattle Times, "Squadron 4 will continue receiving A3D's until brought to full strength. The new plane is not replacing the P2V, which has been the workhorse of Whidbey squadrons since the late 1940s. The P2V has adopted the advantages of auxiliary jet propulsion and the latest model has, among other changes, two jet pods."

Other jet aircraft at NAS Whidbey at that time included TV-2 and F3D jet trainers, UF and two helicopters for search and rescue, SNB Beachcrafts and R5D transports.

Carrier life, however, was the wave of the future for naval aviators.

"After completing their training," wrote Squire, "those squadrons equipped with A3Ds will be assigned to modern carriers of the fleet. Such a carrier could launch an attack on an enemy target, disappear on the open sea and make another raid the next day from some point nearly 1,000 miles from the place where the first attack was launched.

"In blockhouse days," Squire concluded, "the fighting often was done at stockade gates. Tomorrow's warfare can be waged on the enemy's own doorstep."

"By April (1957), locals opened their papers to read news of more Navy expansion. U.S. Sen. Henry "Scoop" Jackson announced that Heavy Attack Squadron 2 and Heavy Attack Wing 2 would be transferred here from San Diego, with personnel numbers estimated at 52 officers and 300 enlisted men."



A3D-2 Skywarriors like this one, pictured flying over the mountains, arrived on Whidbey in the late '50s. The aircraft broke several jet speed records.

Several awards announced next week

Navy League links military and civilian communities

By Steve Berentson

Navy League President Chris Skinner describes the civilian organization as "a liaison between the Navy community and local citizens and business people.

It is the national organization's local focus, he suggests, that draws many to membership in the Oak Harbor Area

'The Oak Harbor Council,' said Skinner, "has always tried to provide a general level of support to Navy families and personnel. The council also provides an opportunity for people interested in supporting the Navy to make their voices

There are times, Skinner pointed out, when community issues related to the Navy move into the political arena. At that point, it becomes awkward at best for Navy officials to take an active role in pleading the case of the service that provides their livelihood.

A good example of this, said Skinner, is Everett, where the Navy intends to build a homeport. Before the issue became a hot political issue, there was little interest in a Navy League council.

"When the homeport project became an issue," said Skinner, "interest grew by leaps and bounds.

Navy League membership in Oak Harbor, said Skinner, is about 500, up from about 450 when he was elected in 1988.

There was a time when military installations were not welcome in com-munities," said Skinner. "That has never been the case in Oak Harbor.

Skinner, who will serve as president until April 1990, said the experience has been valuable. He praises the parts played by many long-time Navy League members, "... people like (Oak Harbor Mayor) Al Koetje, Wallie Funk, Don Boyer number of people who have been in from

"They laid the groundwork," he said. "We've just worked to keep it going."

He also cites the importance of a constant influx of new Navy League leaders, including such new board members as retired high school principal Syd Parker and retired Navy officer Mike Eddy

In addition to political issues such as Navy jet noise, Navy League "campaigns" range from parties for squadrons returning from deployment to sponsorship of youth athletic teams and the NJROTC at Oak Harbor High School

The Council also selects a Sailor and Marine of the Year, as well as a winner of an award named in honor of the late U.S. Sen. Henry "Scoop" Jackson, an avid supporter of a strong U.S. military.

Announcement of the award winners is made during Navy Week, an annual celebration nationwide.

"Navy Week is designed to commemorate the Navy's birthday and to recognize the performance of Navy personnel in the form of the individual awards," said Skinner.

Nominees for the awards come from the squadron level, but final selections are made by the Navy League.

Harbor."

consider themselves patriots or advocates of a strong defense

Although the "strong defense" factor is important to Skinner, he said the real motivation for his involvement in Navy League "is to be able to provide some local support to people who have a difficult job.'

He said a critical role of the Navy League defense of a renowned cooperative relationship between Navy and civilian communities on Whidbey Island."

'When we are confronted with an issue that affects the Navy and has the potential to affect the community as well," he said, 'we try to provide a viewpoint that shows support for the Navy's position.



Chris Skinner, President of the Oak Harbor Area Council of the Navy League.

"There was a time when military installations were not welcome in communities. That has never been the case in Oak

Local Navy League President Chris Skinner

"The recipients are always very pleased to be nominated and to receive the awards," said Skinner. "We've been proud over the years to find both the nominees and the winners take it very seriously. The awards reflect very highly both on them personally and on their service record with

As the second Navy Week of his term as president approaches, Skinner said he is pleased to have volunteered time to the

'This position has given me an opportunity to develop a personal relationship with a lot of people who make the air base run," he said. "I've been very impressed with the quality and sensitivity of those people, and I think I have a better understanding of what they do on a daily

On the question of the Navy League's future, Skinner speculates the character of the general membership will change somewhat as the typical member is no longer someone who lived through war periods

Regardless of fading memories of wartime periods, he suggests, there will continue to be a need for the Navy League.

'Because so many people are choosing the military as a profession," 'there will always be a need for that civilian support. You might see more Navy League members related to people in the military, as opposed to people who simply

"We want to do what we can to provide some balance - to make sure there is never any animosity created because of false perceptions of what each is doing to

A Whidbey News-Times Publication

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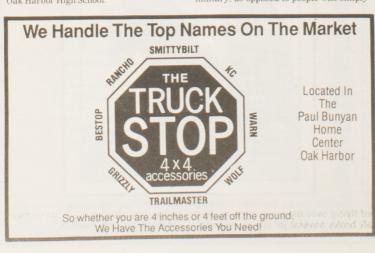
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Construction crews busy at air base

Crews work on A-6Es in the \$6.1 million aircraft maintenance hangar completed this summer.

Today's costs skyrocket over past

The cost of the new aircraft maintenance hangar at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station is almost double the \$3.8 million spent to build the original air station in 1941.

The recently completed \$6.1 million hangar is one of five major construction projects under way at NAS Whidbey this year.

At the naval air station's main base, construction on the \$13.6 million hospital clinic addition is currently the largest and most time consuming project. The clinical addition will more than double the size of the existing building, and open the doors each month to an additional 2,000 people when finished.

Other projects include the Naval Reserve administration training building, a building to house a new flight simulator and a new commissary on the Seaplane Base.

Construction on the commissary, located next to the Navy Exchange, will be finished in February.



Construction on NAS Whidbey's \$13.7 million hospital clinic addition began in March 1988. The addition is slated for completion in March 1991.



A bulldozer levels dirt in front of the new Naval Reserve adminstration training building. Construction on the \$4.7 million building began last November and will be finished in March.



The \$4.3 million flight simulator building, started in September 1988, is scheduled for completion next month.



Original NAS Whidbey control tower.

Whidbey welcomed 1st airplane with historic landing in valley

Construction of Whidbey Island Naval Air Station began Jan. 15, 1942 and was complete 18 months later.

The first landing was made on a field at Clover Valley Aug. 28, 1942 by Lt. Newton Wakefield. Navy records show the landing was perfect "in spite of cross winds and ditches on both sides of the uncompleted runway.

One month after that historic event, Outlying Field Coupeville was established as an auxiliary field to serve Naval Air

At the end of the war, the role of the air base was changed from full operation to a reduced operation status. For the next three years activity grew steadily, until in December 1949 a decision was made to develop the air base into the operational training station it is today.

The significance of the Navy's Seaplane Base changed soon thereafter and development since has centered at Ault Field. Except for a brief dip in military population in 1965, NAS Whidbey has grown steadily.

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Air Wing Commander, NAS Whidbey skipper hail Navy anniversary



Capt. D. B. Sehlin

RAdm. Grady Jackson

October 13th marks the Navy's 214th birthday. It was on that day in 1776 that Congress authorized fitting out of ships for the Continental Navy. Over the 214 years, our mission has been consistent — Navy seapower for peace.

The foundation for a strong naval force has always been its people. The extraordinary performance of Navy men and women, most of whom are 18-21 years old, provides the strong base of readiness. They exemplify personal excellence in all they do. They are the continuation of our rich history and proud traditions.

On the occasion of our 214th Navy Birthday, I want to salute all the personnel of the Medium Attack Tactical Electronic Warfare Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet. It's through them that our tradition of seapower for peace continues.

U.S. Navy RAdm. Grady Jackson ComMAt VAQWingPac October 13, 1776, our new Congress passed legislation authorizing the creation of a standing naval force — the Continental Navy.

The Navy exists to keep those sea lanes free, to protect our interests abroad and to be a stabilizing force for peace. Sailors of today carry on those proud traditions that have kept us a ready force for peace over the past 214 years.

I am proud to serve with the people we have in the Navy today. They are professional, dedicated and highly skilled.

On the occasion of our 214th birthday, I ask everyone to reflect on the contributions of the Navy to their daily lives, and to remember those who stand the vigilant watch for peace around the world. Happy birthday, Navy.

U.S. Navy Capt. D.B. Sehlin Commanding Officer, NAS Whidbey

Profiles



NAME: Michael Way RATE: Ensign

AGE: 35 HOMETOWN: Lake Stevens, Washington

UNIT: Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron One-Two-Nine

JOB: Materiel control officer

Way, a Naval Reserve officer currently on active duty for two years, originally enlisted in the Navy in 1972.

After serving a four-year tour, he got out, went to college, joined the Reserves and received a commission. He's currently on a leave of absence from Boeing Commercial Airplanes while serving his active duty commitment. He said he's not eager to return.

"I'd love to stay on if the opportunity arises."

If it doesn't, he'll return to his civilian job, but stay in the Naval Reserve for the rest of his career. He notes a similarity between the Navy and Boeing. "They're both large organizations with a mission," he said. "People here are

"They're both large organizations with a mission," he said. "People here are always asking me what it's like on the outside. I tell them it's not much different from here. Both are very structured organizations.

"As a matter of fact, we call Whidbey Island 'Boeing North' on the weekends," he said, referring to the multitude of Naval Reservists who are employed by Boeing.

As for Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, Way calls it the "best kept secret in the Navy. You either love it or you hate it," he said. "I love it. They send you up here and then you never want to leave.

"I never have.

Profiles



NAME: Mitch Houchin RATE: Lieutenant

AGE: 28

HOMETOWN: Belleville, Illinois

UNIT: Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron One-Two-Nine

JOB: Electronic countermeasure officer/instructor

The son of a retired Air Force colonel, Houchin said being around airplanes all of his life gave him just the amount of exposure he needed to choose a career path: flying. It's something he never wants to give up.

"I want to keep on flying as long as I can," he said.

As an electronic countermeasures officer (ECMO), Houchin is responsible for operating the sophisticated computer and electronics equipment in the rear seats of the squadron's EA-6B jet aircraft. He also flies in the front seat of the plane as a co-pilot.

Being a training squadron, VAQ-129 prepares student pilots and ECMOs for entry to a fleet squadron. Houchin spends much of his time preparing the students for that time. Although it is a dangerous job, he said he feels comfortable with it.

"Everyone's a professional. Sure, they may be new, but they know what they're doing. I've never really been scared. If there's a student pilot I may keep my eyes on him when we're in the front seat."

According to Houchin, flying does have its benefits for him and his wife, Sandy. "I think it makes her appreciate me a little bit more when we're together."



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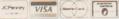
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EA-6B plays critical role in naval aviation mission

The mission of the EA-6B "Prowler" is "to actively and passively assist other aircraft operations by suppressing and degrading enemy defense systems through jamming of enemy electronic signals.

EA-6B functions include:

screening U.S. carrier task forces against long-range bomber and cruise missile attack;

protecting Navy and Marine strike aircraft, including the A-6 "Intruder from the air defense systems of enemy surface ships or defended points ashore.

The EA-6B is a four-seat derivation of the A-6 attack bomber. It features a computer controlled electronic surveillance and control system and 12 high power jamming transmitters in various frequency bands.

The jamming transmitters are contained in pods mounted externally. Depending on the mission, the Prowler can be configured with a mix of up to five jamming pods or fuel tanks. The capability of the aircraft can be varied through the frequency spectrum by varying the mix of jamming transmitters on the aircraft.

Avionics equipment has progressed through four generations of modernization. The latest modernization makes it possible for the aircraft crew to jam two different frequency bands simultaneously from each of its five wing- and fuselage mounted pods.

A fifth generation modernization involves a major upgrade of the jet's receiver processors, computer system, navigation-instruments equipment and radar-communications jamming

The heritage of the aircraft dates back to October 1968 when Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 130 transitioned to the electronic warfare arena.

The Prowler began replacing the A3 Skywarrior in the '70s. NAS Whidbey's last A3 squadron, VAH-10, was redesignated VAQ-129 in September 1970.

Profiles



NAME: Bruce Bull **RATE:** Lieutenant

AGE: 28

HOMETOWN: Oak Harbor, Washington UNIT: Attack Squadron One-Nine-Six

JOB: Pilot

"The biggest advantage of serving in the Navy is the quality of people you work with," said Bull. "Here, as opposed to the civilian sector, you have people who are literally willing to lay down their life for you."

It's a trait he noticed while growing up here.

The son of Rear Admiral Lyle Bull, Bruce said that he liked the people he had an opportunity to meet while his father was stationed at Whidbey Island.

I wanted to associate with Naval aviators.

But, he said, he didn't make the decision to join until his junior year in college.

"We were never pressured into joining the Navy. Dad's policy was to never bring his job home," he said. Both of his older brothers are farmers, but his younger brother is currently in Navy flight school.

Married, with three children, Bull said family separations are the biggest down-

fall to Naval service. Military pay falls right behind it.
"You don't join the Navy for money," he said. "If you did, you're in the wrong

Profiles



NAME: Lynette Keirn RATE: Seaman **AGE: 19**

HOMETOWN: Hamlin, New York

UNIT: Fleet Aviation Specialized Operation JOB: Design and production of visual training aids

Keirn started her Naval career two years ago with the original intention of becoming an electronics technician. A change in those plans came during her formal

'I decided I wanted to do something creative," she said.

She chose to become a draftsman and will take the advancement test in September. A former commercial artist with her own studio, Keirn feels confident she will

"I've got a lot of experience."

Keirn said she has no regrets about her decision to join the Navy. She likes the responsibilities she has, along with the opportunity to stand on her own feet immediately after high school. While a lot of her friends are in college and paying for an education, she's learning and getting paid for it, she noted.

Her goals for her Navy career center around the chance to live in Europe.

"I was there once before I came in and I loved it. I want to spend part of my career there.'

Profiles



NAME: Bob Stumpf

RATE: Aviation Machinist's Mate First Class

AGE: 28

HOMETOWN: Denver, Colorado **UNIT: Search and Rescue**

JOB: Crew chief

There's an excitement in the search and rescue ready room as the crew prepares to go on a call. An injured logger is trapped on a mountain side in Whatcom County and officials have called the NAS rescue helicopter to get him out. Although Stumpf isn't on the crew slated to go, he's excited for the people who are. "I'd go in a heartbeat," he said. "This is what we train for every day."

An eight-year Navy veteran, Stumpf said he wouldn't trade his job for anything. The SAR team can respond to any type of rescue operation when called by civilian or military authorities. They also provide medical evacuations to hospitals when the Naval Hospital can't handle the emergency.

But, he said, his biggest thrill is rappelling out of one of the SH-3D "Sea King" helicopters. "Sometimes we can't land," he said. "Rappelling down is the only way to get to the patient. It's the ultimate high."

The job is not without its dangers. Stumpf remembers three helicopter crashes while he was stationed in Guam.

"My wife would like to see me quit flying," he said. "I just can't see giving it up. I love what I do.

Navy skippers, squadron nicknames

Attack Squadron 52 "Knightriders" Cmdr. Tim Thomson, Commanding Officer

Attack Squadron 95
"Green Lizards"
Cmdr. John Schork,
Commanding Officer

Attack Squadron 115
"Eagles"
Cmdr. David Polatty III,
Commanding Officer

Attack Squadron 128 "Golden Intruders" Cmdr. Gary Stubbs, Commanding Officer

Attack Squadron 145 "Swordsmen" Cmdr. Russell Palsgrove, Commanding Officer

Attack Squadron 155
"Silver Foxes"
Cmdr. Ronald Zimmerman,
Commanding Officer

Attack Squadron 165 "Boomers" Cmdr. William Shurtleff, Commanding Officer

Attack Squadron 185 "Nighthawks" Cmdr. Michael McCamish, Commanding Officer

Attack Squadron 196 "Milestones" Cmdr. Bruce Stuckert, Commanding Officer

VAQ-129 "Vikings" Cmdr. "Renny" Ide, Jr., Commanding Officer

VAQ-130
"Zappers"
Cmdr. Rogers Pierce,
Commanding Officer

VAQ-131
"Lancers"
Cmdr. Robert McNamara,
Commanding Officer

VAQ-132
"Scorpions"
Cmdr. William Joslin,
Commanding Officer

VAQ-133
"Wizards"
Cmdr. Gary Mowery,
Commanding Officer

VAQ-134
"Garudas"
Cmdr. "Butch" Brown,
Commanding Officer

VAQ-135
"Black Ravens"
Cmdr. Jeffrey Harris,
Commanding Officer

VAQ-136 "Gauntlets" Cmdr. Richard Porritt, Commanding Officer

VAQ-137
"Rooks"
Cmdr. Martin Sherrard,
Commanding Officer
Please turn to pg. 20



Grumman Salutes the 214th Birthday of the United States Navy

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Where would we be today without the Navy?

This week the U.S. Navy is observing its 214th birthday and there will be many flagons raised around the country and in foreign friendly ports to mark the occasion.

Here on Whidbey Island the Navy presence dates back to 1942. It was the period of World War II and selection of the local site was deemed critical in a global conflict where few shores seemed immune from attack.

NAS Whidbey became a key installation in the defense plan involving the West Coast and the waters, islands and territories which made up the Pacific Theatre of operations.

Men and women from this insular base distinguished themselves in that phase of the war which sent the United States into combat with Japan when the latter scored its devastating sneak attack on Pearl Harbor.

Damage was of such a scope that there was justified fear that the U.S. continent, particularly principal ports and defense sites on the West Coast, was in imminent peril. It was then that a massive mobilization was begun, and a country that had reacted if not indifferently to the threat of war with Japan and its allies until that time, was jolted out of its complacency and into a counterattack mode.

The history of this and events that followed is well documented. The necessity all but unknown was evident and the great national effort to throw back the enemy was begun.

It was during this period, with little or no time for indecisiveness and heeldragging, that the preparation to retaliate was to absorb the time, ingenuity and energy of the entire country.



Wallie Funk, past president and current member of the Board of Directors of the Oak Harbor Area Council of the Navy League.

October of 1941 was the Navy's 166th anniversary. It was celebrated with pomp and ceremony. No one anticipated at that moment that less than two months later, some of the proudest vessels of the U.S. Navy - and thousands of its personnel would make

Pearl Harbor.

In the aftermath of that tragic and de-

vastating strike, it was not altogether mindless to wonder if the Navy would ever mark another birthday. While the nation was in shock and the toll of the fleet taken by the Japanese on one peaceful Sunday morning could not be accurately measured, the spirit of the nation (and the U.S. Navy) had not been knocked out.

On the 167th birthday, still facing the challenge of recovering from Pearl Harbor, there was little time for celebrating. Few candles were blown out on cakes marking the event. The goal that year was to "blow out" the Japanese fleet and its Navy air arm. And that was the direction things were turning.

Soon a part of the wide-ranging American offensive involved aircraft and personnel from a military installation that sprung up, literally, like a mushroom. It was the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, suddenly launching against the enemy from two locations separated by only a few miles - Clover Valley and the Seaplane base.

"Whidbey where? What station?" was not an uncommon reaction even in its home state of Washington. When the country called, its people put their shoulders to an incredible "wheel" that was designed in its many parts to protect the nation from invasion and take the war to

Again, the results are documented.

Navy, it is not inappropriate to recall Annivesary No. 166 of 48 years ago. Is it "shirtsleeve" patriotism to say, "Happy Birthday, Navy, and many more?

Perhaps we should look at it this way. What if, at age 166 (Dec. 7, 1941), the Japanese had struck the first blow in wiping out the U.S. Navy. What if the war waged from there had led to eventual victory for Japan?

What sort of celebration would we be observing today if THAT had happened? And just where would we be, under what form of government?

Think about it a little - if only during the commercials of Monday Night Football. It is not inappropriate, when you consider some of the grimmer alternatives, to wish the Navy a "Happy Birthday." And in particular the "youngster" of the 214-year-old parent — the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station and its per-

NAS Whidbey and hands are not only citizens of the Navy community. They are valued friends, neighbors and citizens of our civilian community.

Flagons up. Happy Birthday, Navy, here and afar. With memories of Pearl Harbor to add to our sincerity in depth.

(Editor's note: Wallie Funk is a past

cil of the Navy League and currently serves on the Board of Directors.)

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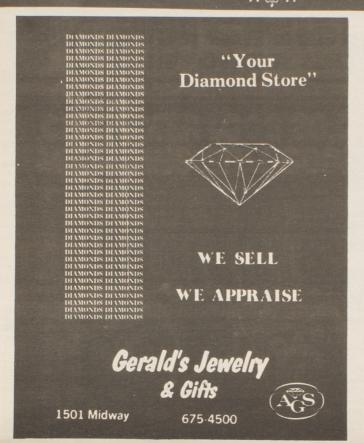
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Top air wing enlisted man remembers 'roots'

By Gretchen Young

Master chiefs? They've come a long way since Command Master Chief Bill Pedersen joined the Navy 30 years ago.

Aircraft Maintenance Master Chief Pedersen, the right hand enlisted man to Rear Adm. Grady Jackson, has witnessed an interesting evolution of the master chief a movement toward a more empathetic, example-setting individual.

"Our roles are changing a lot. Because we are an all-volunteer military, we no longer have an endless supply of people That's where the command master chief comes in. We really try to turn people around and make them productive members of society," he said.

Pedersen cited the Navy's fitness program, the military's zero tolerance drug policy and increased support for families, whether it's drug treatment or financial counseling, as examples.

"We've become more involved with people, more involved with their personal lives . . . and it's not a punitive thing, it's 'Hey, what can we do to help?' We want to have quality people," Pedersen said.

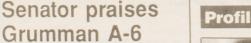
Pedersen defined the master chief's role as one incorporating the three "e's," ethics, empathy and example

"You've got to be ethical, you've got to have empathy and remember the troops and you've got to be a role model — that's hard to do. It sounds rather pompous and arrogant, but you're forced into it. It's not a pressure, it's a delight — it's the best job I've ever had," he said.

As Jackson's advisor on issues important to 8,000 enlisted personnel and their families, Pedersen knows he can't keep pace with everyone without some

When he discovered that a quarter of the enlisted personnel used the food bank at





On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the A-6 "Intruder" last year, U.S. Sen. John Glenn delivered a tribute on the floor of the Senate.

Glenn's remarks included in part:

"The Vietnam War proved conclusively that the A-6 could seek out and destroy both fixed and moving ground targets unimpeded by adverse weather or darkness. While A-6 squadrons represented only 25 percent of Navy tactical air, they accomplished over 50 percent of the total primary missions."

The Senator also noted the aircraft's critical role in recent years:

..since the Vietnam War, whenever this country has had to call on its armed forces, it is a pretty safe bet that you would find the A-6 Intruder involved. For example, in the Gulf of Sidra off Libya in March 1986, A-6s were launched from aircraft carriers to conduct night attacks against Libyan patrol boats that were threatening naval surface forces in the

"Again in April 1987," he continued, "A-6s were launched at night to conduct a major retaliatory strike against military targets in Libva: and as recent as April of this year, A-6s were involved in combat with Iranian naval forces in the Persian

'So I would say ... if you want to go where the action is, become an A-6 pilot or bombardier-navigator



Aircraft Maintenance Master Chief Bill Pedersen talks with Sgt. Maj. Richard

the Help House, he became a member of the board.

"You've got to remember where you came from. You were once one of the young guys waiting with your wife and baby in sick bay waiting to see the doc and wondering at the same time where to get 55 cents for a half gallon of milk," he

Daily visits to the gym and frequent stops at the hospital are other ways he finds out if people are satisfied with the service they receive.

During his visits around the air station, Pedersen said he advises people to take names and make others accountable for their service if it's unsatisfactory

'There are people who accuse me of stir-

ring up problems," he said, smiling.

To cover those places he can't frequent, Pedersen relies on intermediaries to let him know what problems are brewing.

'I don't use daycare, pediatrics or family services. I really have to talk to a lot of people, then gather up all of this information and present it," he said.

He said he encourages anyone to call him anytime.

"I've been on this base for 16 years and I know all the players - I can get the job done," Pedersen said.

Pedersen, a Providence, R.I. native, joined the Navy when he was 20 because he wasn't ready for college and thought the military would help him with a career

"I used to get highs standing up on that

He said he wasn't expecting to stay in long, but the pure thrill of the job of laun-

ching planes off aircraft carriers kept his

deck and launching airplanes," he said. "I really get a bang out of that. You don't realize until you've done it what it's like to launch an airplane securely and safely.

He described himself as an aviation structural mechanic who realized that he had the chance "to run this place," so he started working his way up. Pedersen earned the rank of squadron maintenance chief managing more than 150 men, scoring a career highlight when he was named the air wing's maintenance chief of the year in 1982.

'What kind of a job could I have in civilian life that would give me so much bang for the buck? It's a good life," he

Profiles



NAME: Jonathan Ward RATE: Disbursing Clerk Second Class

HOMETOWN: Pittsfield,

New Hampshire **UNIT:** Attack Squadron One-Five-Five

JOB: Disbursing customer service representative

After signing a contract while still in high school, Ward found himself in basic training only 12 days after graduating. He wanted to see the world.

After two Mediterranean cruises aboard a ship out of Norfolk, Va., he feels he's accomplished that.

"I've seen a lot of places, done a lot of things," he said. "I have no regrets.'

As one of only four customer service representatives serving the personnel support detachment aboard the air station, Ward is on the front line when it comes to military pay problems. He admits it can be difficult at times, but added that treating people with respect and empathy goes a long way in customer satisfaction.

"I've had pay problems myself," he said. "I know that when people get angry about their pay there's usually a way to solve the problem. But things don't happen overnight. There's always paperwork to be processed.'

Profiles



NAME: Hal Hightower RATE: Chief Personnelman AGE: 36 **HOMETOWN:** Oak Harbor, Washington **UNIT:** Naval Air Reserve JOB: Active duty services chief

Hightower supervises the assignment of the 150 enlisted active duty sailors who work at Naval Air Reserve.

A tenant activity aboard the air station, the command is in charge of the training and administration of the 1,500 Reservists who perform their monthly

drills there. It's a job he likes, and a duty station that he's quite comfortable with. A 1971 graduate of Oak Harbor High School, Hightower made the decision to enlist in the Navy during his senior year. According to him, he knew what going to a "job" was like: he had held two of them during his senior year. College was out; he said he wasn't ready for that either.

He decided the Navy was the best place for him at that time. It's a decision he said he's never regretted.

"I'd do it all over again."

With 18 years of service behind him, Hightower said he's glad to be back on Whidbey Island. Not only is his family all here, but also his high school friends and a lot of his past military friends.

'The A-6 community is pretty much like a revolving door," he said. "You know when you work around them (A-6s) you end up working with a lot of the same people again and again. There are kids that I grew up with that are now COs of

Now living in, and planning to retire to, Mount Vernon, Hightower said Oak Harbor has changed a lot since he enlisted: "It's not that small town anymore, Maybe I just don't want to accept the changes that have happened here. The old saying is true: 'You can never go home again'.

Project still top secret

A-12 scheduled to fly Whidbey skies in '90s

Sometime in the '90s, Whidbey Islanders will see a new aircraft flying out of NAS

Because its development is veiled by the military's top secret "black" status, there is little information about the A-12, replacement aircraft for the Grumman A-6 "Intruder.

Vice Adm. Richard Dunleavy, assistant chief of naval operations, is quoted as saying Navy squadrons will be flying the

In the June 1989 issue of "Sea Power" magazine, then-deputy chief of naval operations for air warfare Vice Adm. Robert Dunn is quoted as saying:

"So much of the ATA, the A-12, is in a special access program, I can't tell you a lot about it. But based upon my last review, just recently, I can tell you it is on track. It is on weight. It is on everything. It is progressing according to program.

gradually releasing information about the aircraft, which will be built by McDonnell Douglas and General Dynamics.

. you already know," said Dunn, "that it is a two-place, all-weather, long-range attack aircraft. It is going to be based first at Whidbey Island. The pilot and the BN (bombardier-navigator) will be sitting in tandem. There will be two F-404 engines. It will be a low-observable (stealth) air-

Although reports say the aircraft's twin engines were originally designed to resemble the F-18's, Navy News and Undersea Technology reported in February that additional weight could require a larger engine.

A rumored nickname for the aircraft. reports Aviation Week magazine, is 'Avenger II." President George Bush flew the Avenger I torpedo bomber during World War II.



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Best Wishes to our NAS Whidbey Neighbors on the Navy's 214th Birthday!



USO women serve meals to NAS Whidbey sailors in the '40s.

Profiles



NAME: Chuck Farris

RATE: Hospital Corpsman Third Class

AGE: 31

HOMETOWN: Chattanooga, Tennessee

UNIT: Naval Hospital

JOB: Physiology of Flight Instructor

After working with Down's Syndrome children for one year on his way to a degree in recreation, Farris was convinced he wanted to spend the rest of his life working in the medical field.

His younger brother had joined the Navy and talked about it often. To Farris, enlisting in the Navy

seemed a great way to get the education which would have cost him thousands of dollars to do as a civilian.

"Getting an education and a paycheck sounded like a good idea," said Farris. He got what he called a good education, but has been dissatisfied with the Navy's family programs. He's leaving at the end of this, his first, enlistment.

"There have been times when we've felt real helpless," he said, referring to his wife and two children. "The pay, especially during moves, is not enough."

Farris plans to move back to his hometown when his enlistment expires, but is going to stay in the Naval Reserve program.

Profiles



NAME: Charles Calaway RATE: Chief Warrant Officer Two

AGE: 41

HOMETOWN: Beeville, Texas UNIT: NAS Weapons JOB: Assistant Weapons Officer

An enlisted aviation ordnanceman for 16 years, Calaway received his commission one year ago via the Navy's warrant officer commissioning program.

He said although he does enjoy the increased pay and responsibility, he now misses the opportunity to "turn a wrench occasionally."

The other benefit he likes is better treatment from sailors in customer service positions.

"It takes some getting used to," he said. "I'm used to being told 'I'll be right with you.' Now, when I walk into a place it's, 'Yes sir, may I help you?""

Doing a job he enjoys is what Calaway said is the high point about serving in the U.S. Navy. "That, and serving your country."

According to him, it's not easy:
"If it was easy everyone would be doing it."

Calaway said the down side of Navy service is family separations, but added that things have gotten a lot better since he first entered.

"I remember when cruises were 11 months long. Now they're down to six months. The Navy has come a long way in recognizing the important of taking care of families.

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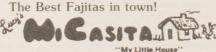
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Liljegren turns to sailors for special projects

By Gretchen Young

Command Master Chief Dick Liljegren and his seabag have come full circle.

When Liljegren arrived at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station on a cold night in October 1966, little did he realize he would return 21 years later to the same building. Today, as an aviation ordnanceman master chief, he is the air station's top

during one of the high points of his career.

He still remembers his days as the young sailor who worked and slept in the old torpedo shop on the Seaplane Base. It's important, he says, to recall those days, especially in this job.

Now Liljegren is charged with the weighty task of ensuring all needs and requirements of enlisted personnel are

could. I thought it would be easy but I didn't understand how broad the duties of the job were . . . I didn't understand that when someone's wife drove over a pothole in the road that I'd get a call," he said.

But he quickly realized the scope of his position, which covers 42 tenant commands, and the lack of money because of congressional budget cuts.

So he got back to the basics and turned to the "blue jacket" — the American sailor.

He discovered many enlisted personnel were spending idle time waiting to be transferred to another station, people who harbored hidden talents like masonry, plumbing and cooking.

"I started scraping for talent and when screening the sailors, I'd ask 'what are your hidden talents?' ... and then we'd put them to work," Liljegren said.

With the combination of talents and donations of materials by different organizations, work began on projects to make lives a little easier or more pleasurable.

A footbridge across a ditch was built to cut traveling time on the base. Then there was a new floating dock for boaters at the marina.

"At first I ran into extreme resistance, but now we have a running track, an outside basketball court and a playground by the commissary. They are little nickel and dime things, but every one of them is a quality item," he said.

With the end of his term as command master chief nearing and budget cuts continuing, Liljegren is trying to implement some longer lasting projects to boost morale and funnel revenue back into the system.

"We still have to fly the same amount of hours, so the cuts come out of morale, welfare and recreation or the barracks," he said. "But you can't charge for some things, like the gym, because if you take it away, it affects the quality of life for a great many people."

One resource he would like to tap is the abundant wealth of knowledge and encouragement that exists in the retirement community.

'They just don't quit existing... they've been exposed to a lot of great people and have an awful lot to contribute — and if you don't know where you came from, it's pretty hard to figure out where you're going," Liljegren said.

One project he is pushing to implement before he leaves next year is a recycling program. Probably the greatest challenge of starting the program will be encouraging people to think "recycling" instead of disposing. The money made from recycling will be split between the Morale, Recreation and Welfare department and environmental needs, he said.

"I think when people start seeing the monies are going back into things," they will become more involved, he said.

"Time is running out and there is still a lot of things I want to do," he said, pausing. "This is probably one of the greatest jobs in the Navy, but I'll never forget standing outside this building with my seabag on my shoulder."



Aviation Ordnanceman Master Chief Dick Liljegren talks to Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class Jerry Evans on the new floating dock at the Seaplane Base marina. Flotation devices, fire hose and the help of the marina's personnel were among donations needed for the dock's completion. Those who helped build the dock include Evans, Boatswain's Mate 1st Class John Goodrich, Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Recruit Jim Hall and Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Coleman Bemelman.

enlisted man — with a desk just one floor above the office he first signed in.

Liljegren's 23 years in the Navy would put Indiana Jones to shame. He's weathered sandstorms at sea; lived almost a straight year at sea aboard a carrier involved in the 1979 Iranian crisis; fathered two children and coped with losing a dear friend and commanding officer fulfilled. Those include improving quality of life, reinforcing the chain of command and promoting teamwork. The endless list of boards, councils and meetings he attends ranges from the Chief Petty Advisory Board to the Yard of the Month selection committee.

"I vowed when I came over here that I was going to attempt to do as much as I

A-6 termed Navy 'mainstay'

Grumman's A-6 "Intruder" has been the mainstay of the Navy and Marine Corps air arms for more than two decades, according to the January 1989 issue of "Sea Power" magazine.

The aircraft, with a wing span of 53 feet, is a medium-attack, all-weather, daynight, carrier based attack bomber.

Its crew are assigned the responsibilities of close-air-support, deep-strike missions and interdiction, which is defined as "impeding or hindering the enemy or isolating an area or route by bombing."

The A-6 has an advanced electronics

package and can carry external weapons loads of nine tons. Its defense capabilities include configuration for both HARM and Harpoon missiles.

The aircraft's performance in recent years, in particular during 1986 attacks on Libyan targets and 1988 attacks on Iranian vessels, buttressed its reputation as an outstanding attack aircraft.

The two-seat jet is powered by two Pratt and Whitney J52-P-8B turbojet engines with 9,300 pounds of static thrust each. It has a maximum speed of about 650 mph at sea level and a ceiling of 42,400 feet.

Profiles



NAME: Kelly Hoagland RATE: Air Controlman Second Class AGE: 27 HOMETOWN: Joplin, Missouri

UNIT: Naval Air Station Operations

JOB: Air traffic controller

A former college student with sights on a career in the medical field, Hoagland said she was diverted to the military when it started to look like she would spend her entire life in Joplin. The decision to enlist in the Navy was helped along by her brother-in-law.

"He was in the Army," she said. "He told me to

join the Navy."

In her present job Hoagland directs movement of all aircraft on the ground. Still in her first enlistment, she said she will soon assume more responsibility when she masters the next level of air traffic controllers, local controller. She'll then take charge of all aircraft within a five-mile radius, up to 3,000 feet above the deck

Hoagland said, contrary to popular belief, her job is not particularly stressful, although it can be hectic.

As for looking back over her decision to enlist, Hoagland said she's happy: "The Navy's a good place to start. They've given me training and experience. I'm glad I came this direction."

Profiles



NAME: Jim Kirch RATE: Chief Engineman AGE: 42 HOMETOWN: Sauk City, Wisconsin UNIT: Navy Recruiting Command JOB: Recruiter-In-Charge, Oak Harbor

A recruiter for 16 of his 22 years of Naval service, Kirch says he's seen the quality of recruits come a long way since he first started.

"In 1979 we would put just about anybody in the service," he said. "That's no longer true."

According to Kirch, today's applicants are better educated and behaved — especially those coming from the Oak Harbor area.

"We don't have the drug or legal problems with our applicants," he said. "It's a real pleasure working here."

With an average of five to seven contracts signed per month, the Oak Harbor office was named the top small recruiting station in a five-state region last year. Kirch said that "payoff" takes a lot of hours and a lot of hard work, but he calls his job "satisfying."

"I like to get the right person in the right job. It makes them happy, it makes me happy and it makes the Navy happy. That means I'm doing my job right."





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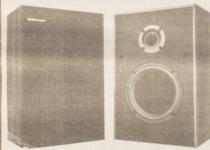
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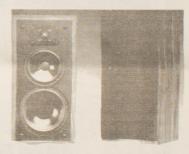


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Navy aviator 'Spuds' Ellyson poses for a photograph before his first shipboard launch in 1912. His 'life vest' consisted of bicycle inner tubes wrapped around his body.

Profiles



NAME: Kathleen Harris **RATE:** Mess Specialist Third Class

AGE: 22

HOMETOWN: Newark, New Jersey
UNIT: Attack Squadron One Two Eight

JOB: Barracks maintenance

Leaving her hometown in the rearview mirror was one of the goals of this four-year Navy veteran. According to her, most of her old friends were dead, in jail or on drugs.

"Newark is a pretty depressing place," said Harris. "I wanted to get out of there while I could. I wanted to see other parts of the world."

She's achieved both.

One of the highlights of her career, she said, has been the chance to visit Mexico while on a squadron detachment to Southern California. The other was meeting her now-husband, a sailor in VAQ-133.

Harris has just finished her first four-year term and recently reenlisted for another three years. She said although she originally "hated" the

Navy, she now loves it.
"I think a lot of it has to do with what kind of boss you work for," she said. "I didn't like my old boss much. I don't think he liked me either.

Harris works in Barracks 2701 as an all-purpose maintenance assist-





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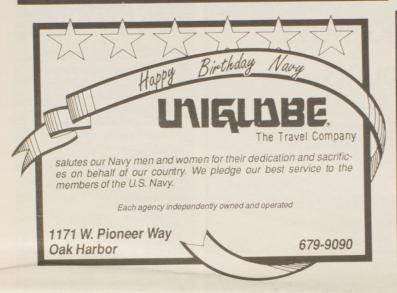


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Navy skippers, nicknames

Continued from pg. 9

VAQ-138 "Yellowjackets" Cmdr. Darrell Jones, Commanding Officer

VAQ-139 "Cougars" Cmdr. "Jack" Flanagan, Commanding Officer

VAQ-140 "Patriots" Cmdr. Don Stoner, Commanding Officer

VAQ-141 "Shadowhawks" Cmdr. Jack Skjoldager, Commanding Officer

"Grim Watchdogs" Cmdr. Robert Hamilton, Commanding Officer

Profiles



NAME: Tim Susanin **RATE**: Lieutenant

HOMETOWN: Philadelphia,

Penn.

UNIT: Navy Legal Service JOB: Attorney

Susanin said the idea of serving in the U.S. Navy was one of the furthest things from his mind while attending law school at Villanova Unsibility came during the last weeks before graduation. It was, what he called, a very subtle recruitment.

"I saw a recruiting brochure for the JAG (Judge Advocate General) corps on a table," he said. "I learned that I could be in the courtroom right away, where if I was in a civilian practice, it might take a couple of

The seven months he's been at NAS Whidbey have had a lasting impression on Susanin. Although his contract calls for a service obligasee himself spending a lot more than that practicing military law.

"I really like it," he said. "I could see myself doing 20 years,'

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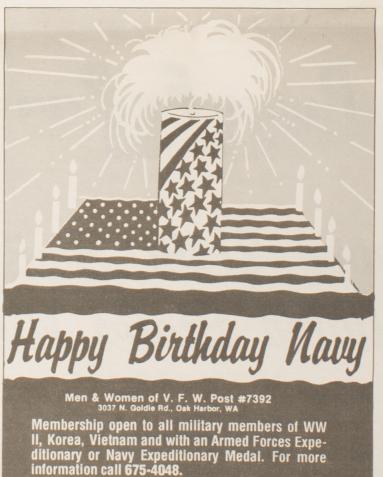
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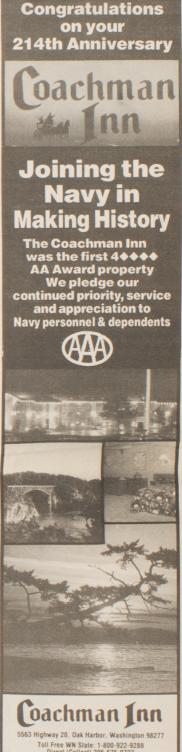
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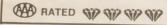
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Film to be released in June

Hollywood works to make 'Intruder' famous

By Steve Berentson

In a few weeks American film audiences will be introduced to actor Brad Johnson, co-starring with Richard Dreyfuss as the pilot of a forest fire suppression aircraft in Always

Next summer, Johnson will share the big screen with a new "co-star," the A-6 attack bomber so familiar to residents of Whidbey Island.

Johnson, who visited Whidbey Island Naval Air Station a few weeks ago for some firsthand experience with the A-6 and naval aviation training, will star in "Flight of the Intruder.

This Paramount film, based on the popular book by former Navy pilot Stephen Coonts, will shine a national spotlight on the Navy attack bomber which many contend has failed to receive the attention it deserves.

Many jets are faster, many better looking — but it is the A-6 community that has repeatedly gotten the call in recent years for dramatic military action such as a retaliatory strike on Iranian vessels in

On April 18 of that year, following the crippling of U.S. Navy frigate USS Roberts, NAS Whidbey-based squadrons aboard the USS Enterprise took part in attacks on two Iranian oil platforms, two patrol boats and two frigates. Both patrol boats and one of the frigates were sunk.

That mission involved not only A-6s from VA-95, but EA-6B electronic jamming aircraft from VAQ-135

"Flight of the Intruder" dates back to the Vietnam War, focusing on fictitious A-6 pilot Jake Grafton.

Johnson and one of his co-stars, Danny Glover, submitted to Navy training including grueling water survival training in an effort to better understand the naval aviators they will portray in the film.

Although cockpit sequences will be shot in a studio mock-up, the men thought it was important to actually fly in the A-6 before shooting the film.

In addition to a personal goal of "doing

"We owe it to the men who do this kind of thing" to experience at least some of the training they go through.

By the end of a two-hour session in the

included being dragged through the water and dunked in full flight gear - a sense of camaraderie between Hollywood stars and Navy personnel was evident.



Brad Johnson (left) 'debriefs' with hospital corpsman Kenneth Brown.



'Lethal Weapon' star Danny Glover looks like he thinks NAS Whidbey's dunker could be lethal.

Profiles



NAME: Robin Bonesteele RATE: Dental Technician Third Class HOMETOWN: Battleground, Washington

UNIT: Branch Dental Clinic JOB: Appointment desk supervisor

Meeting people from different parts of the world is what Bonesteele said is her biggest joy about serving in the U.S. Navy: "Everyone on base comes through dental at one time or another," said the four-year veteran. "I like getting to know people."

In her work Bonesteele and her counterparts rotate through all areas of the clinic. She said she likes that about the job, but feels that this will be her only enlistment.

"I've learned a skill that I can put to use on the outside. I like the Navy, but I'm married now and have two kids," she said. "I couldn't see going on a boat and

Her husband's career is another reason why she's decided to get out. "It's tough on him," she said. "They talk about 'Navy wife' being the toughest job. People don't think about the Navy husband. I may be able to have a career in the Navy, but how could he keep up a career when we'd be transferring every three or

Glover were watching someone else recover from his "ride" in the dunker, their new-found Navy friends tackled them for yet another dunk in the pool. Johnson retaliated with an attack on Navy liaison man Lt. Brian Swan, who went into the water in full uniform.

Aircraft bombing sequences have been completed in Georgia so "Intruder" filming now moves to Hawaii. Some filming will take place here, tentatively in December

The film is scheduled for release June

Profiles



NAME: Philip Spain RATE: Lieutenant Commander HOMETOWN: Dallas, Texas **UNIT:** Naval Air Station Chapel JOB: Chaplain

Spain served as the minister for a local parish for five years following a fouryear tour-of-day as an administrative officer in the Air Force.

It was during that time that he decided to go back to the military - this time the Navy - and the lifestyle that he had found he liked.

"I like the lifestyle," he said. "There's always a variety of assignments and there's a lot of energy. I like the young congregations and the broad range of people I encounter.

"Being in a parish was, for me, like wearing a suit of clothes that don't fit. I am a Chaplain. Some of my friends would be terribly unhappy serving in this capacity. I'm quite happy doing this.

There's another facet of the military that he enjoys.

Although a Methodist minister by trade, Spain said he finds it enlightening to provide not only Methodist services, but worship services for all religions.

"We're not here to change people's religious beliefs," he said. "We're here to provide everyone the opportunity to grow in their own faith."

Spain just finished a 13-month tourof-duty in Bahrain, a small country in the Persian Gulf. Although he admits family separations can be difficult, he said they can also be rewarding.

"Communication is the biggest factor to consider. You've got to talk to one another all the time," he said. "When you're apart it's tough, but when you come back together the interests are re-

"I believe that the relationship can become better following a separation.'



Actor Brad Johnson flashes a confident smile enroute to the dreaded dunker.

Official praises Navy

In the Department of the Navy's Fiscal Year 1989 Report to the Congress, Under Secretary of the Navy H. Lawrence Garrett III's statement including some of the following excerpts:

— "The success of operations in the Persian Gulf demonstrates our naval forces' ability to operate continously at the cutting edge of national security policy at any level of conflict. Indeed, for our Navy and Marine Corps, a 'decade of neglect' has been reversed."

— "Naval forces have long been the force of choice for addressing crises and deterring conflict. Since 1955 the Navy has been called upon in 153 cases to respond to crises involving international conflict, tension or terrorist activity, or to protect U.S. assets or citizens abroad, or as in the Persian Gulf area, to protect U.S. flagged shipping. These actions represent roughly 80 percent of the instances where American armed forces have been employed in this period."

— "The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps offer important tactical options necessary for continued deterrence after reductions in nuclear or conventional forces — against Soviet aggression and in Third World contingencies anywhere on the globe. Their utility and effectiveness are proven every day, in the Atlantic, Pacific, Caribbean, Indian Ocean and most visibly today, in the Persian Gulf."

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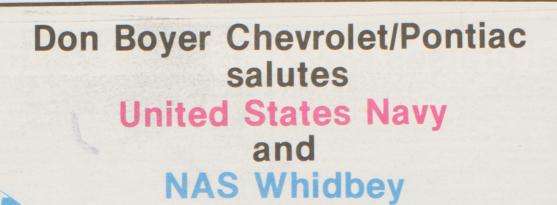
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