

Pelican Poop Sheet

Volume 37

November 26, 2016



New on the roster: Captain Dave Elliott, USNR(ret) (PPC 1979-1982); AWCS Bob Wilcox, USN(ret) (AX2 1966-1969); Richard Pearlstein (AT3 1977-1979); Bill Schwartz (AX2 1966-1969)

Lost contact: Doug Mick (AZ2 1986-1990); Don Hopkins; Robert Sikkink (AZ2 1950-1954)

Taps: Harvey Heintz (LCDR 1973-1977); Don Wells (LT 1960-1962 PAO and editor for the first Poop sheet)

Navy Rating Changes

With the Navy doing away with the rating badges, this may be a good web site to get one in the future:
<http://www.uniforms-4u.com/c-us-navy-rating-badges-1013.aspx>

Here is the NAVADMIN message in case you haven't seen it:

<http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/reference/messages/Documents/NAVADMIN/NAV2016/NAV16218.txt>

AX Rate

I got my old rating badge for myself and a Shipmate, it came with a little history of the AX rating:

The rating of Aviation Antisubmarine Warfare Technician (AX) was established in 1962. Nearly 30 years later, the AX rating, along with Aviation Fire Control Technician (AQ), merged into the Aviation Electronics Technician (AT).

In broadest terms, Aviation Antisubmarine Warfare Technicians handled in-flight duties crafted to ensure the success of combat, reconnaissance, search-and-rescue, and transport missions. This began with pre-flight inspections of electronics equipment; once underway, the AX worked with communications and detection equipment not only to establish satellite communications with command, but also to jam enemy communications transmissions.

The AX also was responsible for the operation and maintenance of weapons, active and passive defense systems, and refueling systems. They also calculated and double-checked the weight and balance proportions of cargo,

passengers, fuel, and special equipment. In the event of an exigency, the AX was tasked with the execution of emergency procedures. Personnel and cargo drops also fell under the bailiwick of the Antisubmarine Aviation Warfare Technician.

Perhaps the best-known former AX was Ken Fischer, who got his start with electronics while in the U.S. Navy. After a stint as a TV and radio repairman, Fischer began building electric guitar and bass amplifiers for Ampeg, but left the company when it was purchased by Magnavox. Using the foundation in electronics the Navy had provided him while he served as an AX, Fischer established Trainwreck Circuits and began building a line of highly praised custom amplifiers, garnering clients such as Mark Knopfler and Brad Paisley. Instead of model numbers, Fischer christened each amp with a woman's name ("Kaylene" was the last one he built). With his passing in 2006, the price of his amps has soared, and now frequently are sold for more than \$25,000 each.

<http://www.uniforms-4u.com/p-us-navy-aviation-antisubmarine-warfare-technician-dress-blue-rating-badge-16649.aspx>

Military DD-214 Available Online

It's official; DD-214s are NOW Online. Please pass on to other vets. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov> or try <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>. This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time.

Photo from the past

Shipmates

This is for those of us that have stood a mid-watch on the VP-44 flight line at Breezy Point, NAS Norfolk back in the day. There it is below. Walking among the P5M-1's at 2 o'clock in the morning, maybe freezing your butt off, maybe not, the hangar is all lit up. And it's quiet. Remember that?

I don't believe that I have posted this picture before. The reason being that the quality is of the original was so bad that I just left it in the junk folder for years. Then a few years ago I took another look at it. This photo was taken in 1954, with my old Leica III, when the squadron still had P5M-1's, Film, in those days, was very slow and for a picture like this a "time exposure" was required. Since I had no tripod I sat the Leica on the tail wheel float of one of the P5's to steady it. It turned out that the tail wheel float was all that steady (because of wind rocking the a/c). I took two photos. Both show some movement and both were badly under-exposed, and both went into the junk folder. That was then. After 50-60 years you can't be so choosy so I fired up Photoshop and did what I could, and you see the result below. Technically, it is still not good picture. The movement is still apparent (a ghost image most noticeable at the bottom of the a/c fuselages) and the detail in hangar is lousy, etc. However, I like the picture, with all its faults. To me it captures what it was like to stand out there in the middle of the night in a peacoat and white hat. It is not a great photo, but it sure stirs up the memories.

Please forgive the ramblings. It happens now and then.



Bill Stupka (AT2 1953-1956)

Looking for something different for the holidays, you probably wouldn't find anything like it elsewhere? Call if any questions and I will be glad to help. All process go to the Pelican fund to restock the shop and upcoming reunions.

PELICAN SHOP PRICE LIST

Hats: Plain \$13.00; Others (A/C, PC NFO) \$15.00

Watch Caps \$13.00

T-Shirts: Pelican \$15.00

Golf Shirts: All sizes \$30.00

Patches: \$10.00 All eras

Lapel Pins: \$3.00

Coin: \$10.00

Decals: Pelican \$2.00

Coasters: ½ Off plus S/H varies depending on #'s

Ordered.

*In the beginning of a change the Patriot is a scarce man, brave, hated and scorned.
When his cause succeeds, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a Patriot.
- Mark Twain*

Gene R. Toffolo, AX2, December 1965-April 1969
Administrative Chief, Sales Coordinator
Reunion Chairman: 2007 Indianapolis, 2012 NAS Pensacola,
2016 NAS Jacksonville
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Holidays

I want to first wish all of you a belated Happy Veterans Day, one of the best emails I got on November 11 said: "We don't know them all but we owe them all." Happy Thanksgiving to everybody and enjoy this time with family along with the Christmas season which is fast approaching. Not sure what the New Year will bring but hoping and praying everything in this world gets better. I try to do my part every day but sure can use all the help I can get. I'll turn 70 at the end of December and will head back to Indianapolis, IN to celebrate with my family, first time I've been up there in the winter months in 8 years. I've done a lot of volunteering with different organizations since retiring in 2008, I enjoy it very much and hopefully the health will keep me going. I've been doing this newsletter for 11 years now and still enjoy it, sooner or later I will have to give it up so all you young Shipmates out there be thinking about it. I would like to thank our Pelican Committee for all the help keeping me on the right path over the years. Here is our committee for 2016:

2016 Pelican Committee

Ed Avis LT 1972-1975; CAPT, USNR (ret) Chairman Brunswick Reunion 2010 (ME)

Ray Beck ATN2 1961-1964; ATC USN (ret) Former Web Master; Chairman Fredericksburg Reunion 2005 (TX)

David Bingham AWC 1982-1986 & AWCS 1990-1991; AWCS, USN (ret); Brunswick reunion Committee 2010 (ME)

Ralph Cook AMH2 1959-1963 Co-Chairman Norfolk Reunion 2010; Public Relations (PA)

Les Dennis LT 1960-1964; CDR, USNR (ret); Chairman St. Louis 2011 Reunion (MO)

John Federice AFCM 1987-1991; AFCM, USN (ret) Decommissioning & Facebook Coordinator (FL)

Jeffery Gorman LT 1979-1982; CAPT, USNR (ret) (MI)

Frank Kurkowitz AVCM 1982-1985; CWO4, USN (ret); Chairman Green Valley 2009 Reunion (TX)

Frank Romeo AE2 1959-1962 Co-Chairman Norfolk Reunion 2010 (MD)

Bob & Tina Sass AFCM & AOCS 1990-1991, USN (ret) (FL)

Jeff Snavelly AO2 1961-1965; Treasurer; Chairman Pax River reunion 2003 (MD)

Ron Stevens LTJG 1972-1975; CAPT, USN (ret); Fallen Roster Coordinator; Brunswick Reunion Committee 2010 (MD)

Gene Toffolo AX2 1965-1969; CUCM, USNR(ret) Sales & Admin; Chairman Indianapolis Reunion 2007; Chairman Pensacola Reunion 2012 Chairman NAS Jacksonville Reunion 2016 (GA)

Dick Watson AMM3c 1942-1944; LTJG, USNR (ret) Blue & Black Cats; CAC Roll of Honor (UT)

Brown Word LT 1974-1977 & LCDR 1985-1988; CAPT, USN (ret) Brunswick Reunion Committee 2010 (TX)

"The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch and do nothing" - Albert Einstein

***"To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace."
George Washington***

