

IUSS/SOSUS DINNER SPEECH, 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
18 SEPTEMBER 2004  
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I REPORTED FOR DUTY AT COSP IN JULY 1968, THEN LOCATED ON TREASURE ISLAND, IN THE MIDDLE OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY. FOUR MONTHS LATER, COSP WAS MOVED TO FORD ISLAND IN PEARL HARBOR. FOR THE NEXT 25 YEARS AND 18 MOVES IN THE NAVY, PROJECT CAESAR, SOSUS, THE IUSS ... WE JUST CALLED IT THE SYSTEM ... WAS MY PROFESSIONAL LIFE.

AFTER COSP, I RECEIVED ORDERS TO NAVFAC ADAK AS OPS. SUSIE AND I WANTED TO SEE WHAT ADAK WAS LIKE, SO SOME OF OUR FRIENDS AT COSP HAD US OVER TO LOOK AT THEIR SLIDE PICTURES OF ADAK. (ALL OF US OLDER FOLK'S REMEMBER WHAT SLIDE PICTURES ARE). ADAK WAS BEAUTIFUL... MAGNIFICANT MOUNTAINS, BEAUTIFUL LAKES AND RIVERS, GREAT FISHING AND HUNTING. ONLY AFTER WE HAD BEEN THERE FOR A YEAR, DID WE REALIZE THAT ALL THOSE BEAUTIFUL PICTURES WERE TAKEN ON THE ONE DAY OF THE YEAR THAT IT WASN'T RAINING OR THE WIND BLOWING 30 KTS. EVERYONE ON THE ISLAND WAS OUT TAKING PICTURES WITH US ON THAT ONE BEAUTIFUL DAY OF THE YEAR. WE USED TO SAY THAT THE WIND DIDN'T BLOW ON ADAK ... IT SUCKED!!

IN THE END, I HAD FOUR TOURS OF DUTY IN PAC IUSS, AND FOUR TOURS OF DUTY IN LANT IUSS. THERE ALWAYS WAS THIS DEBATE BETWEEN THE PAC AND LANT, ABOUT WHICH WAS THE BEST. MAYBE I CAN SETTLE THAT ARGUMENT ONCE AND FOR ALL SINCE I HAD AN EQUAL NUMBER OF TOURS IN BOTH. I THINK THAT THE QUALITY OF WORK IN BOTH OCEANS WAS EQUAL. THE PAC HAD FEWER SITES, A LARGER OCEAN, AND NO CHOKEPOINTS. IT'S NOT THAT ONE WAS BETTER THAN THE OTHER; IT'S JUST THAT THE PAC WAS HARDER THAN LANT, SO THEREFORE LANT SEEMED BETTER.

I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO ALSO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE IUSS IN THE 1980'S. ... I CONSIDER THE 1980'S TO BE THE MOST INTERESTING AND REWARDING DECADE OF THE SYSTEM. THE 80'S ARE WHEN THE IUSS INTRODUCED SURTASS, AND WENT TO THE DIGITAL AGE. NEW

ACRONYMS SUCH AS COPS, RTSP, IAP, AND TDP BECAME COMMON TERMS. THE DIRTY PAPER WAS BEING REPLACED BY CRT DISPLAYS. NOPF'S WERE COMMISSIONED USING NEW UNDERWATER TECHNOLOGIES AND SATELLITE RELAYS FROM REMOTED SITES AND SHIPS. OLDER, SMALL FACILITIES WERE BEING CLOSED AND THEIR DATA REMOTED AND PROCESSED AT LARGE CONSOLIDATED SITES. WE GOT OUR OWN TRAINING FACILITIES, AND THE SURTASS SUPPORT CENTERS WERE CREATED. THE NAME OF THE GAME WAS CHANGE, CHANGE, AND MORE CHANGE.

ALSO, THE 80'S WERE WHEN THE IUSS REALLY STARTED TO GET THE RECOGNITION IN THE ASW WORLD IT DESERVED. MANY OUTSIDE THE SYSTEM, WHO WERE PREVIOUSLY NOT AWARE OF THE IUSS NOW HAD ACCESS TO THE DATA, AND THIS RESULTED IN SOME BAD NEWS, AND SOME GOOD NEWS. THE BAD NEWS WAS THAT WENTWORTH AND WALKER COMPROMISED THE SECRECY ASSOCIATED WITH THE IUSS. THE GOOD NEWS WAS THAT CONVERSION RATES WERE UP, TACTICAL SUPPORT HAD NEVER BETTER, AND OUR OT'S WERE GETTING PROMOTED AND SELECTED FOR LDO AND WARRANT OFFICER, AND OUR OFFICER'S WERE BEING PROMOTED BECAUSE, FOR THE FIRST TIME THOSE WHO WERE SITTING ON PROMOTION AND SELECTION BOARDS, BOTH FOR THE OT'S AND OFFICERS KNEW WHAT WE WERE DOING AND THEREFORE COULD FAIRLY EVALUATE US AGAINST THOSE FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES. WE HAD ACHIEVED A MEASURE OF THE RESPECT WE HAD FOR SO MANY YEARS BEEN DENIED. ALSO IN THE 80'S WE WERE ON THE LEADING EDGE OF THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO THE OPERATING FORCE. BECAUSE OF THE SUCCESS' OF OUR WOMEN IN THE IUSS, WE GAVE OUR LEADERS THE CONFIDENCE TO GO FORWARD AND INTEGRATE WOMEN INTO THE FLEET.

WE ALSO ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF THE ADVESARY. IN AN ATTEMPT TO BUILD FASTER AND QUIETER SUBMARINES, THEY Poured MORE AND MORE RUBLES INTO THEIR SUBS IN AND ATTEMPT TO "BEAT SOSUS". THEY COULDN'T DO IT, AND IN THE END THEIR ECONOMY COLLAPSED UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE EXPENSES OF THEIR DEFENSE BUILDING PROGRAMS.

SO WAS THE RECOGNITION IN THE 80'S REALLY GOOD NEWS OR BAD NEWS?? I THINK IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, IT WAS GOOD NEWS. I

BELIEVE THAT THOSE OF US WHO WERE A PART OF THE IUSS IN THE 80'S, WERE THE FRONT LINE WARRIORS OF THE COLD WAR. EVERY DAY WE ENCOUNTERED THE ENEMY AND KEPT THEM AT BAY. WE OFTEN HAD MORE EXPOSURE TO THE ENEMY IN ONE-WEEK (SOMETIMES IN ONE DAY) THAN MOST OTHERS IN THE NAVY HAD IN A 20-YEAR CAREER. WE COULD TAKE PRIDE IN KNOWING THAT EVERY DAY WE WERE DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR COUNTRY AND THE PROTECTION OF OUR CITIZENS. AFTER THE COLD WAR WAS OVER AND OUR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY DEBRIEFED MANY OF THE TOP ADMIRALS OF THE SOVIET NAVY, THE COMMON COMMENT WAS, "WE JUST COULDN'T BEAT SOSUS".

IN MY OPINION, OUR 50 YEAR HISTORY IN IT'S TOTALITY CONTINUES TO DESERVE DUE RECOGNITION. THERE ARE FEW COMMUNITIES IN THE MILITARY THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH WITH SO FEW, OR FOR SO LITTLE COST. I BELIEVE THAT NOTHING LESS THAN THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT COMMENDATION WOULD BE THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF RECOGNITION FOR THE PAST 50 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT. I CHALLENGE THOSE OF YOU WHO CURRENTLY HAVE THE WATCH, TO EMBRACE THE SYSTEMS HERITAGE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SEE TO IT THAT THESE PAST 50 YEARS DON'T GO UNRECOGNIZED.