



The Cable

Official Newsletter of the IUSS CAESAR Alumni Association

Alumni Association

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ORDERS TO SAN SAL -circa 1955

LT Jack King, USN (Ret)

When I first received orders to NAVFAC SAN SALVADOR I was an SO3 serving on a minesweeper. Imagine my surprise that I was going to San Salvador. Of course the only San Salvador I was aware of was in Central America so I assumed I was being assigned to some military assistance group. Naturally, I had to go to school in Key West at the Fleet Sonar School infamous "Green Door Academy". I well remember those 4" grams and the wonderful, lovely odor. It was here that reality set in when I found out that San Sal was an island in the Bahamas. So, I finished school and reported to PATRICK AFB, Florida FFT "down range" to San Sal.

Just to digress for a moment - who can ever forget PATRICK AFB in the 1950's and 1960's: the missile range and all the strange characters (RCA, PanAm, etc.) who worked the "range". An adventure was the C-130 or C-54 plane ride down through the islands; assuming it even flew or didn't breakdown on GBI or Eleuthera. Landings and takeoffs on some of the island strips were always good to get the adrenaline flowing. You get the picture I'm sure.

Anyway, back to SAL. I arrived there in January 1956; was met at the plane by the mailman. As we journeyed to the "FAC" there was nothing but scrub vegetation and the remains of salt flats and land crabs (which were not very good to tires). Upon arrival I was given time to shave, shower, get checked in and be told welcome you are now the section leader for Section 3 and you have the mid-watch tonight!!

How many people remember that the old equipment had its own individual stylus belt. It was not uncommon to go through 20-25 stylus belts per watch. How about the carbon in those days? Coming off an 8-hour watch was like coming up from the coal mines. The TTYs were in the display room as it was not uncommon for the sonarmen to do double duty as radiomen. Of course it did get a little dull once in awhile so the eve/mid watch was enlivened a bit by putting a large live crab in OWO desk drawer or in the commode. On rare occasions one of the more enterprising lads would manage to come up with a "risqué" flick which would be shown in the back room.

From the Director

Ed Dalrymple

Well, winter hopefully is behind us. Washington D.C. was not the greatest place to be this winter. We had a record level of close to 50 inches this winter although if you measured in my yard we well exceeded that level. I'm certain some New York staters and northern plains people are not impressed. Our membership continues to grow but we always welcome new members. Please keep passing the word. OTCM Jack Holdzkom, USN (Ret) has offered to head a more concerted membership drive. Jack is in the process of contacting the people whose names you have submitted (as long as we had addresses or telephone numbers). He will also follow up on people who were previously contacted and have not responded. Historically, I have had good luck in getting people to respond the second time they are notified.

A more somber note is that I sadly report the passing of three members since our last newsletter. CAPT Bob Richards, Mr. Curt Hambrick and OTCM Jack Kilgore. Three very fine gentlemen who served IUSS well.

As we continue to try make the newsletter a publication you will find worthwhile we need to have your inputs. Write us about what you are doing, your family (remember many of us grew up together and would like to know what that 3 year old boy or girl is doing now that they are 25 or 30 years old). Feel free to submit articles you think may be of interest to the other members. Provide information if you own your own business; we will keep the last page reserved for free advertising.

On a more formal note I would like to start a continuing column on the history of the "SYSTEM". Some foundation work in this area has been done but not published to my knowledge. Captain Joe Kelly started this and his work is now in the Navy Archives. We will make an effort to gain access to these notes. Helen Walkinshaw of Bell Laboratories has indicated some work has been done by some of the BTL group. But more importantly each and everyone of you have the history of the "SYSTEM" locked in your memories. I'm asking, no pleading with you to take the time to share those experiences with the rest of us in an effort to paint the history of our community. Official milestones and

continued on last page

NAVFAC Point Sur ('62-'64)

by LCDR Cliff Clifton

During my tour at Pt Sur, my first as a commissioned officer, the Commanding Officer's were LCDR McGrath and LCDR Gaydos: LTjg Spittler-XO, LTjg Herberger - Supply, LTjg Wigley - OPS, Ens Mossy and Ens Gross - OWOs. I recall an SN Peterson who advanced to CPO, OTC Stow, ET1 Niemerer and Stan Givets-WECO Rep. Oceanographic Unit (COSP predecessor) San Francisco was LCDR Foster who sadly took his own life in later years. CAPT Dibrell became the first COMOCEANSYSPAC about 1963.

Operationally, yours truly LTjg Clifton, reported the first out of area contact, EC#10392. It was held by all NAVFACs as an unknown surface until I changed classification. I knew it was a Type I from my experience at STIC (Editor's Note: STIC was the Scientific Technical Intelligence Center, then it became NISC, then NTIC which was Bruce Rule, George Miller & Co. and is now Ed McWethy's group at ONI in Suitland, MD). In fact there was a picture identical to this signature in the OWO Signature Library. Initial indications to OU San Francisco was that this contact may be the USS PRAIRIE, AD 15; this was proven not to be the case. Pt Sur prevailed.

Anyone remember where they were when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated? I was at Pt Sur. During that time we were transitioning from 4 inch grams used in the old BFRM (Bi-Facial Recorder Multiplier) to the DSA 9 inch grams. Want a wild time? ET1 Niemerer and I would take forklift up Coast Guard hill to repair the TV relay system while dangling in the air a few hundred feet above the crashing surf below. Some fun!!

San Salvador ('62-'63)

by OTCM Ed Smock, Sr.

DO YOU REMEMBER???

Your first day and your last day there? The 37 mile around the island grudge walk, XO vs. all officers, won by then Ens. Ed Dalrymple? Bernie, the San Sal native who ran the NEX snack bar? (Editor's note: his address is Bernie Storrs, Polly Hill, San Salvador, Bahamas) Live ammo NEGDEF drills run by the XO? The XO firing live rounds across the bow of a merchant ship, XO firing at a Cessna aircraft forcing it to land on the beach? The XO with a cowboy hat, uniform shirt and shorts, Wellington boots and a pearl handled six-shooter strapped to his side machine gunning three of Jake Jones cows because they charged him. XO flushing mud hens with hand grenades? Wonder why Navy officials arrived and removed all guns and ammo save a few shotguns and .45's?

The Columbus Day party at David Wolper's (yes, the Hollywood producer) when SN Lepak sat on a keg of black powder, lit a cigarette and then lit up the horizon? The tent city built to house landing forces during the Cuban Missile crisis? Putting a sonobuoy on the roof of the TEB, wiring into our equipment, the P2V "marking on top" and receiving data relay (sailor ingenuity at its best)?

COSL believing San Sal's crest motto SSS stood for Sea, Sand and Surf? To the crew it was San Sal S--Ks. The end to a perfect year was the XO announcing to everyone that he was being relieved by his brother and he is worse than I am.

Does anyone remember these ex-San Salites: Carl Mertens, Don Layson, Sanford P. Stahl, LT Carl Prebeck, LTjg Len Graham, Ltjg Rick O'Connor, Mark Halperin, Ken Livingston, PO Lamphere, PO Marvin, PO Motley, HM1 Frank Folio, HM1 Jim Smith, Chuck Richardson, Glenn Tryon, Harry Clock or Dick Clock? Write if you know the whereabouts of any of these people.

Stories of San Salvador

by Jim Stalter

Back in 1962/63 at NavFac San Sal we had a young guy who didn't quite fit the mold of military life, He was a nice guy, a history teacher in civilian life, good sense of humor but hopelessly out of touch with Navy life. Every time he got near a console he managed to touch a stylus which gave him a nasty shock. He'd put a clean uniform and it immediately looked like he slept in it.

One time he was assigned to paint the Research Office. He did a great job, even waxing the deck. It looked so nice he was allowed to present it for inspection. He put on a new dungaree uniform and memorized the reporting procedure until his Chief was sure he could do it. Unfortunately, just before the C.O. arrived he noticed a five gallon can of paint was still in the area and he decided to take it out. You may remember it was common practice to store paint upside down to make it easier to mix when righted. Sure enough when the young sailor lifted the can the top fell off and paint splattered everywhere: deck, wall and his new uniform. A real mess.

In those days we still had to fill out a chit to get paid. You remember, it looked something like a blank check. You filled in your name, date, serial number and the amount you wanted in words and numbers and signed it. The chit could be for any amount not to exceed amount you had coming. Our young sailor, who had twenty eight dollars coming filled out his chit and worked his way through the pay line and was told by the paymaster (LT Ken Livingston) the he had misspelled twenty-eight. He was to fill out a new chit and work his way back through the line. He was wrong again and he was wrong on a third try. The paymaster told him one more try and that was it. So our young sailor spent a long time working on the next chit and with a big smile returned to the paymaster with a chit for twenty-SEVEN dollars.

People News

We have had a number of people join since our last newsletter and I will catch you up on their whereabouts. Something I forgot to mention in the last newsletter that some of you may find of interest is that the officiant at my daughter's wedding was RADM Anderson Byron Holderby; many of you will remember him as the first Navy Chaplain to serve at a Naval Facility. He was at Brawdy in the 1977-1979 timeframe. He is now the Deputy Chief of Chaplains and if tradition holds true he should fleet up to Chief of Chaplains.

A note of interest we should soon have a "first" in the System. We will have a husband and wife serving as XO's at two different NAVFACs at the same time. LCDR Jim Donovan is XO at Keflavik and soon his wife LCDR Kathy Donovan will be XO at NOPF Dam Neck. We recently witnessed another "end of an era". Frank Dorsch of AT&T retired at the end of October 1995. Frank was an early architect of the System and a force behind the success of the AT&T/Navy team in fielding the greatest peacetime surveillance system. Knowing Frank he won't be content to sit with his feet propped up; so I'm sure we will be hearing from him.

OTM1 Katherine Baez, her husband SMC Michael Baez and sons Michael Jr. and Jason are currently stationed at CFIC Halifax, more correctly known as HMS Trinity. OTCS (Ret) Herb Betz and wife Marlene are full time Rvers traveling the U.S. Tom Calder sent me a copy of a 1970 BUPERS Notice 1440 Subj: Selection to the Ocean Systems Technical Rating. Some names are hard to read but if anyone is interested in a copy let me know.

Dr. Ted "T.C." Carlson has a Podiatric medical practice in Bremerton, Washington. Ted was a former E-6 last stationed at Ramey. By the way he is also a lawyer. Talk about having your bases covered. OTAC Wendy Craven, USNR remains active with the NavFac Kef Reserve unit. Wendy is a property manager in Oldsmar, Florida. OTCM Dave Dittler, USN (Ret) finally got back to us. Life on his many acres in Saddle River, Nova Scotia, Canada must be just too relaxing. CWO4 Richard Greatting is an OWO at CFIC Halifax. He and his wife Namiko are enjoying Canada but they will retire to Illinois on 1 August 1996. RADM Jackson who led the Project Office through the most significant modernization of the System in the 70's is enjoying the role of elder statesman in Vienna, Va. and still keeps his fingers in the community.

CDR Callie Leef, USNR is currently XO of her ONR Reserve Unit in San Diego and is married to former System officer Budd Leef. She is a senior test engineer with SAIC. Budd is senior program analyst for software testing with Advance Telecommunications, Inc. (ATI) in San Diego. OTCS David "Doc" Manney, USN (Ret) is in

Sherwood, MI. He writes that 2 heart attacks and a pacemaker have him leading a less stressful life. Doc had some good info in his letter which I will put in the next newsletter. He mentioned James H.R. Brady. Anyone know of Jim's whereabouts?

Anne MacFarlane is CIC Officer on the USS JOHN YOUNG, homeported in San Diego. Her last System tour was at CUSL ('86-'91). LT Melodie Palmer is the Asst. Admin Officer at NAS Miramar and resides in San Diego. I am getting old. I remember Melodie as a brand new sailor at NavFac Brawdy in 1979. OTCM Marshall Pittman, USN (Ret) and wife Fredna reside in Ellisville, MS. Marshall has his own accounting business. They now have three beautiful grandchildren. Greg Sherman, NavFac Pacific Beach ('73-'76) is in Eaton, CO. LCDR Robert T. Soper, Sr., USN (Ret) is in Virginia Beach. Upon retirement from his position of Director of System Management at CUS (remember COSL became CUSL, then CUSL & CUSP combined to become CUS, Commander Undersea Surveillance.) Bob now works for Signal Corp. supporting Westinghouse on the AN/SQQ-89(V) support contract.

OTCM Richard Stow, USN (Ret) and wife Donnah spend the winters in Yuma, AZ and the summers in their 5th wheel TT (I'm not sure what TT stands for). They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 18 August 1995. They truly deserve our admiration and congratulations. Their son Fred is working towards a Masters in education at the Univ. of NM, Richard, Jr. is a retired USAF LtCol and Greg works for Edison Power at the Laughlin, NV power plant. They only live a block and a half off Interstate 8 and said anyone is welcome. It is a nice rest stop between Phoenix and San Diego; 180 miles from each.

CDR Paul Swagler, USN (Ret) and wife Lynn are in Dexter, NY. Son Scott is an AT2 stationed on the USS NEW ORLEANS with the SAR det. He is a rescue swimmer and will transfer to Fallon, NV for his shore tour. Helen Walkinshaw is in Peapack, NJ. Helen was at Bell Labs and worked on the R&D effort for SOSUS starting in 1952 and ending in 1990. She continues to consult and a recent trip in support of the International Congress of Acoustics had her traveling by dogsled and helo. Helen is a national resource when it comes to the history of the System and I am going to rely heavily on her inputs in putting our history together. P.S. Helen, yes, you can send pictures for us to use.

OTM1 John "Frog" Walther, USN (Ret) resides in St. Johns, NFLD, Canada. He works for the Department of Work, Services & Transportation of the Newfoundland Provincial Government. He enjoys the hunting and fishing

and promises to get his moose this year. His wife Joan teaches in St. Johns; daughter Rhian has been accepted by the University of Ottawa to do Masters research in Biochemistry, DNA research. His son John III will attend trade school in the fall. Wish the US had more good trade schools.

OTCS Elmer Ward, USN (Ret) is in Moline, KS. After retiring from the Navy in 1976 he went to work for Boeing as a flight test manager and retired from there in 1994. He is now a part time sales rep for Girard Enterprise Building Contractor. Mike Weir and wife Joanna reside in Virginia Beach. Since retiring from the Navy in 1989, Mike has been working for Hughes Aircraft Co. Sons Tim and Jason are in the Army, Jeffrey is in the 6th grade and daughter Elizabeth is in the 4th grade. CAPT Bob Jacob and Nancy are thoroughly enjoying retirement near PineHurst, NC.

My sincere thanks to those of you who gave me a great deal of information on your applications. That is what we need and it makes it a whole lot easier to put the newsletter together. Until next time. EKD

New Members:

OTM1 Katherine A. Baez
28 Cayuga Dr. Apt. #2
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B3A 1B5

OTCS Herbert H. Betz, USN (Ret)
Apt #2983, 6110 Pleasant Ridge Rd.
Arlington, TX 76016

Dr. Ted Carlson
3816 Tracyton Beach Rd., NW
Bremerton, WA 98310

OTAC Wendy A. Craven, USNR
4080 Tampa Rd.
Oldsmar, FL 34677-3205

OTCM David D. Dittler, USN (Ret)
RR #2
Sable River, Nova Scotia BOT 1VO

LCDR Katherine Donovan
664 Rosaer Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

CWO4 Richard L. Greatting
216 Rutledge St.
Bedford, Nova Scotia B4A 1YA

RADM Dempster Jackson, USN (Ret)
1422 Carrington Lane
Vienna, Virginia 22182

CAPT Robert Jacob, USN (Ret)
196 Hunter Trail
Southern Pines, N.C. 28387

CDR Carolyn Leef, USNR
11158 Madrigal St.
San Diego, CA 92129

Mr. William E. Leef
11158 Madrigal St.
San Diego, CA 92129

OTCS David M. Manney, USN (Ret)
923 Dunks Rd.
Sherwood, MI 49089

Ms. Anne E. MacFarlane
1532 Evergreen Lane
San Marcos, CA 92069

LT Melodie Palmer
13912 Cape Wood Lane, Apt 285
San Diego, CA 92128

OTCM Marshall C. Pittman, USN (Ret)
816 Main St.
Ellisville, MS 39437

Mr. Greg L. Sherman
319 First St.
Eaton, CO 80615

LCDR Robert T. Soper, USN (Ret)
418 Firth Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23464-6347

OTCM Richard W. Stow, USN(Ret)
11256 East 34th St.
Yuma, AZ 85367

CDR Paul J. Swagler, USN(Ret)
21544 County Route 59
Dexter, NY 13634

Ms. Helen M. Walkinshaw
Box 72
Peapack, NJ 07977

OTM1 John (Frog) H. Walther, USN (Ret)
6 Southcott Place
St. John's, Newfoundland Canada A1E4B4

OTCS Elmer W. Ward, USN (Ret)
PO Box 13
Moline, KS 67353

Mr. Michael D. Weir
411 Granada Dr.
Chesapeake, VA 23320

IN MEMORIAM

CURTIS NELSON HAMBRICK

7 January 1935 - 7 October 1995

Contributed by Carolyn Knight

Curtis "Curt" Hambrick passed away 7 October 1995 in Winterhaven, Florida, where he had made his home since his retirement.

Curt was raised in Roanoke, VA, served in the U.S. Navy and then went to work for Western Electric, AT&T, now Lucent, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He worked for WECO on Project Caesar until 1968. He then transferred to Washington and began his career as a civil service employee for the Undersea Surveillance Program Office. He became the resident expert for the manufacturing and deployment of undersea cable.

He was the program manager for the cable production and integration at Simplex Wire and Cable in Newington, NH from its beginning. He retired from the Undersea Surveillance Office on 20 August 1993.

Curt's expertise and dedication was sorely missed by his co-workers at his retirement and his smile and generous heart continues to be remembered and missed by all who knew him.

Curt is survived by his wife Frankie and daughter Bambi, both residing in Florida, a son Kip of Marshall, Virginia, a sister, Genetta of Roanoke, Virginia and six grandchildren.

OTCM JACK CHARLES KILGORE, USN (Ret)

Contributed by Bill Upham

It is with great sadness that we report the recent passing of our shipmate and IUSS Alumnus, Jack Charles Kilgore OTCM (Ret). Jack passed away on November 24, 1995 after a brief illness.

Jack enlisted in the Navy in July 1958 as a seventeen year old and was to distinguish himself with over 35 years of continuous service in the IUSS. The first "system" tour for Jack and his new bride, Maria, was at NAVFAC Nantucket. Following a number of tours in both the Atlantic and Pacific, Jack retired from his duties as the OT Enlisted Detailer on August 1, 1988. His talents and vast IUSS experience were to serve him well as he undertook a "second" career. Since August 1988, Jack worked at the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) in Washington, DC. He had the difficult task of coordinating and developing BESEPs, equipment inventories and disposition instructions, as well as responding to emergent (daily) technical requirements. Those of you familiar with recent IUSS history know that this was NO SMALL EFFORT! The Navy's ability to successfully complete a major restructuring of the IUSS is due in large part to Jack's efforts.

Although quiet and unassuming, Master Chief Petty Officer Kilgore was a "superstar" who made a difference. He is remembered as a man dedicated to his family, his country, the Navy, and the IUSS.

As was his wish, Jack was accorded full military honors and was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. We salute Jack and are indebted to him for the positive influence that he had on each of us with whom he served.

CAPTAIN ROBERT RICHARDS, USN (Ret)

Captain Bob Richards passed away on October 7, 1995 in Jacksonville, Florida after a lengthy illness. Bob was a graduate of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and upon entering the Navy became a jet pilot. After a few years he switched designators to return to his first love, ships and became an unrestricted line officer. Bob was first introduced to our community during his tenure as Operations Officer on the staff of Commander, Naval Forces Japan in charge of the Special Projects group; on which many of us worked. He became an instant champion of the system and a lifelong supporter.

Subsequent tours on the staffs of COMTHIRDFLT and MSC saw him become intimately involved with our cable ships and their operations. Many of the AT&T sea group people will remember Bob well as a friend and true professional. Upon retirement in Jacksonville Bob owned and operated his own Marine Surveyor Company. He is survived by his wife Joyce and two sons, Robert, Jr. and Charles and their families. Bob was a good friend who will be truly missed.

From the Director (continued)

chronology are the backbone of any effort like this but what you can add as to the day-to-day life in the "Facs" and in the labs, on the cable and survey ships, on staff, in the Project Office and in the sponsor's office will provide the flesh and blood and make it come alive once again. We want the perspective from everyone's view, officer, chief, petty officer, seaman, spouse, civilian, Washington to San Diego to Norfolk to North Carolina to New Jersey to New Hampshire. You get the picture we want it all. Whatever you write will be appreciated and we can format it into the column and integrate it with other contributors. You can mail it or send it via e-mail. Yes, we are now on-line, America On Line. (My e-mail address is EKDALIUSS@aol.com).

I recently had the pleasure of attending the 24th IUSS Project Office Birthday Party at Ft McNair in Washington. It was good to see many friends. There have been some changes recently. PD 80, the Integrated Undersea Surveillance Project Office, headed by CAPT Hal Williams is now PD 18, Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance now headed by CAPT Gerry Nifontoff.

Gerry relieved Hal on 1 April. CAPT Williams will relieve CAPT Kirk Evans as CO NRaD, (old NOSC) San Diego. Another major reorganizational change is that the PD 18 Project Office will transition to San Diego from Washington starting this summer and due to complete by 1 Oct 97. When we do the history maybe we can pull this together in a clearer picture for you.

We were just notified that CDR Robert J. Eastman Jr., USN(Ret) recently passed away in the Washington DC area. There are no other details known at this time. Bob served in many positions at a number of NAVFACs. His last tour in the system was as CO NavFac Lewes, Delaware (1974-1977).

EKD

GRAY HAWK SYSTEMS INCORPORATED

***Falls Church, VA
(703) 824-9746
Fax: (703) 379-7656***

**Harry M. (Pete) Howton
President**

**6225 Edgewater Drive
Falls Church, VA 22041**

Louise's Hallmark Shop

**4616 W. Market St.
Greensboro, NC 27407
(910) 854-1686**

**Holly Hill Mall
Burlington, NC 27215
(910) 584-9507**

**Douglas A. Lyle
President**

**Lyle Sales Company, Inc.
907 Pebble Drive
Greensboro, NC 27410
(910) 855-8427**