



NAVAL ENLISTED
RESERVE ASSOCIATION
WINDY CITY CHAPTER



July-Aug 2013 Edition
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From The WCC President

July 2013

Shipmates:

We are four months away from the 2013 National Conference. Let me update you: We are looking for donations for raffle prizes and goodie bags. Let us know if the companies you are loyal to can help our National Conference. We will be happy to add them to our donation list in the Booster Book.

Our next fundraiser is FREE ROOM RAFFLE. Look in your mail box for a white envelope. Inside you will find 5 white tickets. \$5 a ticket for a \$70 room. It's a good deal. Fill one half of the ticket out and mail to us. Keep the other half. Do you feel lucky? We will find out.

We have a wonderful ad for our conference on the inside cover of the latest "**MARINER**." There is also a registration form on page 15. Visit our www.wcchapter.org website or go to www.nera.org. Wherever you go, you will find a registration form. Looking forward to having you join us.

Go ahead and reserve your room at the Ramada Inn, 847 244-2400. Be sure to mention NERA. Remember, our conference will be 16 – 19 OCT.

If you want to help in any way, please feel free to call 815 893-4444 or email nerawindycity@hotmail.com.

Thanks, Penny Padour, WCC President

See you at WCC's meeting: @ 2000 August 13th at VFW Post 3579, 10 Higgins Rd., Park Ridge, IL 60068

Mark Your Calendar:

Meetings are conducted at 2000 on the second Tuesdays of even numbered months at the VFW Post #3579, Canfield at Higgins (alongside the Kennedy Expressway) .

The WCC meeting schedule for 2013 is as follows: Aug 13th, {Oct 15th mtg canceled due to conference conflict} , & Dec 3rd

Planning Ahead!

2013 NERA National Conference- Oct 16-19 in Waukegan

Windy City Chapter meeting minutes – Windy City Chapter meeting minutes-6/11/2013
Meeting of the Windy City Chapter convened at 2000. Pres., Vice Pres., Exec. Coun & Secretary present. A quorum exists.

Nominating Committee Report: 2013-2014 Vice President sworn in.

Minutes & newsletter report: All present receive the newsletter except for some member did not receive electronic newsletters. Minutes accepted as published (with no corrections) MX-Darlene Nickelson, 2X-Gene Koelker & John Nickelson

Treasurer's Report: Accept the Treasure report as stated-MX Ed Whiteside, 2X- Andy Anderson.

Exec. Coun.: Turnover at Great Lake Naval Base, new 365 chief.

Pres.: Looking for a replacement for VP position & Andy Anderson has accepted the position of Vice President of Windy City Chapter.

New business:

- 24Aug 2013, Picnic/Fish Fry @1400 at John and Darlene Nickelson house. MX-Gene Koelker, 2X-Jerry Padour.
- Constitution & bylaws amendments will be considered at this year's national conference, so everyone should view the NERA national website for By-laws.
- On a temporary basis, change the chapter's mailing address from Rockford address to Crystal Lake address, will change/vote back after conference. MX-Gene Koelker, 2X-Andy Anderson.

Good for the chapter:

- Life Member-Richard Koehnke has been accepted & will be joining the United States Navy, His boot camp date is scheduled for 04NOV2013. His rating will be Master at Arms. Prior in joining the United States Navy, Richard was in the Navy Sea Cadet program from 2006 to 2011, rated as Navy Sea Cadet Chief. Congratulations to Richard.

Motion to adjourn @ 2100 MX Jerry Padour, 2X Larry Monroe.
Steve Devereaux won 50/50 raffle.

SEA SERVICE NEWS



The Coast Guard is celebrating its 223rd year this August 4th. The Coast Guard is one of America's five armed forces and traces its founding to Aug. 4, 1790, when the first Congress authorized the construction of 10 vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws, prevent smuggling, and protect the collection of federal revenue. Responsibilities added over the years included humanitarian duties such as aiding mariners in distress.

The service received its present name in 1915 when the Revenue Cutter Service merged with the U.S. Life-Saving Service to form a single maritime service dedicated to the safety of life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws.

The Coast Guard is a multi-mission, maritime, military service and the smallest of the five Armed Services. Its mission is to protect the public, the environment and U.S. economic interests in the nation's waterways, along the coast, on international waters, or in any maritime region as required to support national security.

Military Misconduct-

View Navy Court Martial Results Online

The Navy now has an [online resource](#) for reviewing the results of every Special and General Court-Martial convened within the United States Navy from January through June 2013. The cases are separated by the Navy Region in which they were tried.

The new website is:

http://www.navy.mil/docs/MasterCourtMartialSummariesRegionalized_01-062013.pdf

In the news

AAFES Pulls Playboy, SpongeBob From Newsstands

More than a month after a conservative group called on Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel to order Playboy, Penthouse and other men's magazines from the newsstands of base exchanges, the magazines are on the way out.

But it's about the marketplace, not morality, officials said.

Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials said the company is removing another 890 titles from newsstands, including SpongeBob Comics, the Home Buyers Guide, and even the iconic Saturday Evening Post, because of poor sales.

"Magazine sales are on a sustained downward trajectory due to the proliferation of digital delivery," said AAFES Public Affairs Chief Army

Lt. Col. Antwan Williams in a statement. "The exchange, as a government entity, is operating in a fiscally constrained environment that requires it to shrink expenses while growing sales and earnings."

AAFES will use the newly created retail space to stock more of what people do want -- electronics.

"The decision to no longer stock the material is a business decision driven by the time, money and energy required to facilitate buying habits, combined with decreasing demand," Williams said. AAFES has seen sales of all magazines at exchange facilities fall 18.3 percent from 2011 to 2012, officials said.

Sales of adult titles at AAFES stores have dropped 86 percent since 1998.

"According to the Audit Bureau of Circulations, digital magazines continue to expand their presence in the industry," Williams said. "Like their civilian counterparts, exchange shoppers' increased reliance on digital devices to access content virtually has resulted in a sustained decrease in demand for printed magazines."

In June, a group called Morality in Media called on Hagel to get the magazines off military bases. The group argued that the Pentagon cannot expect to stop sexual assaults and sexual exploitation if it allowed the sale of magazines that presented women as sexual objects

Communist Military Aircraft flying over US Continent

Russia began observational flights over the United States on last week under the international Open Skies Treaty, officials said. The monitoring missions are being carried out by a Tupolev Tu-154M/LK-1 aircraft through Aug. 12, RIA Novosti reported.

"The missions will be carried out from the Travis Air Force Base [in California] and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base [in Ohio]," said Sergei Ryzhkov, head of Russia's National Nuclear Risk Reduction Center. "These will be Russia's 23rd and 24th monitoring flights in 2013 over the territories of the Open Skies Treaty member states."

Russian military inspectors, along with U.S. specialists, will monitor surveillance equipment aboard the aircraft.

The Open Skies Treaty allows participants to conduct unarmed aerial observation flights over the territories of its 34 member states to promote openness of military forces and activities.

North Korea to Put Captured USS Pueblo on Display

If there was ever any doubt about what happened to the only U.S. Navy ship that is being held by a foreign government, North Korea has cleared it up. It's in Pyongyang. And it looks like it's here to stay.

With a fresh coat of paint and a new home along the Pothong River, the USS Pueblo, a spy ship seized off North Korea's east coast in the late 1960s, is expected to be unveiled this week as the centerpiece of a renovated war museum to commemorate what North Korea calls "Victory Day," the 60th anniversary this Saturday of the signing of the armistice that ended hostilities in the Korean War.

The ship is North Korea's greatest Cold War prize. Its government hopes the Pueblo will serve as a potent symbol of how the country has stood up to the great power of the United States, once in an all-out ground war and now with its push to develop the nuclear weapons and sophisticated missiles it needs to threaten the U.S. mainland.

Many of the crew who served on the vessel, then spent 11 months in captivity in North Korea, want to bring the Pueblo home. Throughout its history, they argue, the Navy's motto has been "don't give up the ship." The Pueblo, in fact, is still listed as a commissioned U.S. Navy vessel, the only one being held by a foreign nation.

But with relations generally fluctuating in a narrow band between bad to dangerously bad, the United States has made little effort to get it back. At times, outsiders weren't even sure where North Korea was keeping the ship or what it planned to do with it.

Requests for interviews with the captain of one of the North Korean ships involved in the attack were denied, and officials here have been tight

lipped about their plans before the formal unveiling.

The Pueblo incident is a painful reminder of miscalculation and confusion, as well as the unresolved hostilities that continue to keep the two countries in what seems to be a permanent state of distrust and preparation for another clash, despite the truce that ended the 1950-1953 war.

Surrounded by a half dozen enemy ships with MiG fighter jets providing air cover, the crew was unable to put up much of a fight. It scrambled to destroy intelligence materials, but soon discovered it wasn't well prepared for even that.

A shredder aboard the Pueblo quickly became jammed with the piles of papers anxious crew members shoved into it. They tried burning the documents in waste baskets, but smoke quickly filled the cabins. And there were not enough weighted bags to toss all the secret material overboard.

One U.S. sailor was killed when the ship was strafed by machine gun fire and boarded. The remaining 82, including three injured, were taken prisoner. The North Koreans sailed the Pueblo to the port of Wonsan.

For the survivors, that's when the real ordeal began.

"I got shot up in the original capture, so we were taken by bus and then train for an all-night journey to Pyongyang in North Korea, and then they put us in a place we called the barn," said Robert Chicca of Bonita, Calif., a Marine Corps sergeant who served as a Korean linguist on the Pueblo. "We had fried turnips for breakfast, turnip soup for lunch, and fried turnips for dinner. ... There was never enough to eat, and personally I lost about 60 pounds over there."

Although the ship was conducting intelligence operations, crew members say that most of them had little useful information for the North Koreans. That, according to the crew, didn't stop them from being beaten severely during interrogations.

"The Koreans basically told us, they put stuff in front of us, they said you were here, you were spying, you will be shot as spies," said Earl Phares from Ontario, Calif., who was cleaning up after the noon meal in the galley when the attack began. "Everybody got the same amount of beatings in the beginning."

North Korea said the ship had entered its territorial waters, though the U.S. maintained it was in international waters 15 miles off the nearest land.

The incident quickly escalated. The U.S., already deeply embroiled in the Vietnam War, sent several aircraft carriers to the Sea of Japan and demanded the captives be released. Just days before the attack, North Korean commandos had launched an assassination attempt on South Korea's President Park Chung-hee at his residence.

North Korea responded by putting members of the crew before cameras to confess publicly. The crew members planted defiant codes into forced letters of confession and extended their middle fingers in images sent around the world. That led to further beatings when the North Koreans figured out the gesture's meaning.

On Dec. 21, 1968, Maj. Gen. Gilbert H. Woodward, the chief U.S. negotiator, signed a statement acknowledging that the Pueblo had "illegally intruded into the territorial waters of North Korea" and apologizing for "the grave acts committed by the U.S. ship against" North Korea. Both before and after, he read into the record a statement disavowing the confession.

The hostages were released across the Demilitarized Zone that divides the two Koreas two days before Christmas - 335 days after their capture.

The Navy considered a court-martial for the ship's captain, Cmdr. Lloyd M. "Pete" Bucher, for letting the Pueblo fall into enemy hands without firing a shot and for failing to destroy much of the ship's classified material. But he was never brought to trial. John H. Chafee, secretary of the Navy at the time, said Bucher and the other crew members "had suffered enough."

To this day, members of the Pueblo crew say Bucher made the right decision, though years later his second-in-command publicly questioned Bucher's decisions not to fight.

"It would have been nice to take out some of the guys, some of them, and maybe go down fighting, but it would have been total suicide," said Phares. "We never thought anything would happen, and we weren't supposed to create an international incident."

In 2002, former U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Donald P. Gregg said a North Korean foreign ministry official hinted at a deal to return the Pueblo. But when he later visited Pyongyang, he said he was told the climate had changed and a return was no longer an option.

In January the next year, Colorado Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell reintroduced a resolution in Congress asking North Korea to return the ship. There has been no progress since, however, at least none that has been made public.

"The ship was named after Pueblo, Colorado, and they would have loved to have the ship back," Chicca said. "It's very disappointing to have it still there, and still being used as anti-American propaganda."

The planned display of the ship by North Korea hangs over the heads of the crew members who have long campaigned for its return.

"I'll never give up, but I don't think it's ever coming back," Phares said. "It's just unfortunate that we got put in that situation, and that the top brass blamed us, or blamed Bucher, for everything."

Benes

TRICARE to change Dental Payment Method

Effective October 1, 2013, all TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) beneficiaries will be required to pay their monthly premiums by an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or through military retired pay allotment. The ability to pay premiums by check or through an online bill pay system will end in September. However, most TRDP enrollees will need to take no action. Delta Dental sent letters to all TRDP participants

on July 19 with information on where to submit EFT authorization forms and how to submit an EFT authorization online at the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program website at www.trdp.org.

Navy Exchanges Change Alcohol Sales Policies

Navy Exchanges are making changes in their alcohol sales procedures. Liquor should only be sold at main exchanges or at dedicated package stores, and alcohol displays and merchandise in stores will occupy no more than 10 percent of the retail floor space. NEX facilities will also make single-use alcohol detection devices available to customers. All of these changes will take place within the next 90 days

NERA'S 56TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

October 16th - 19th, 2013

Name _____

First Last Rate

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Daytime Phone _____

(____) _____

E-Mail _____ I need a map Y/N _____

Number of People attending _____ Date & Time: of Arrival _____ / _____ of Departure _____ / _____

Airline/Flight # _____

_____ / _____

Special needs

requirements _____

Chapter _____ Office _____ 1st Conf? Y/N _____

Hotel Room: Fee has been contracted at \$85.00 Max. / Room / Night (plus 11% room tax).

Spouse/guest name _____

First Last Rank

Please NOTE: These SPECIAL rates are available for any night before and after the conference.

Conference Registration Room Reservations (visit or call):

Make checks payable to: **Windy City Chapter 313.098 Ramada Waukegan-Gurnee**

Send registration form SKC (Ret.) Penny Padour Group Code - **Mention NERA**

with payment directly to: 1010 Darlington Lane ph: 847 244-2400

Crystal Lake, IL 60014 fax: 847 249-9716

www.wcchapter.org / www.ramadainwaukegan-gurnee.com

Registration: Cost X # Attending = \$ Total

Before October 2, 2013 \$35.00 X _____ = \$ _____

!!!LATE FEE WAVED... COME JOIN US!!!!

~~After October 2, 2013 \$45.00 X _____ = \$ _____~~

Taxi / Bus Service to Hotel \$38.00 X _____ = \$ _____

Taxi / Bus Service to O'Hare \$38.00 X _____ = \$ _____

Events:

Wed, Oct 16 Mixer FREE X _____ = \$ FREE

Thurs, Oct. 17 Awards Luncheon \$30.00 X _____ = \$ _____

Turkey Orange Roughy Beef

Base Tour / Burkey NEX FREE X _____ = \$ FREE

Morning - Intended for spouses

Rivers Casino (PM) \$21.00 X _____ = \$ _____

Fri, Oct. 18 RTC Graduation - (AM) \$11.00 X _____ = \$ _____

Navy Pier (PM) \$21.00 X _____ = \$ _____

Sat, Oct. 19 Installation/Dinner Dance \$45.00 X _____ = \$ _____

Prime Rib C h i c k e n

Registration/Events Total: \$ _____