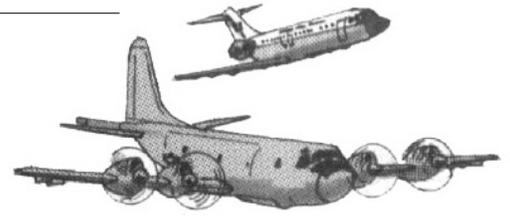




Whidbey Island Squadron

Air Plan



Vol. 3, No. 4

ANA Squadron 40

April 1999

Thank You

We wish to thank all those who attended our last meeting and gave us some great ideas for future meetings. Some suggestions were; setup an ANA booth at Skyfest, ANA supporting the NJROTC program at Oak Harbor High School, future meetings ending NLT than 1300, present information about the antenna farms on base and near Gallery Golf Course, provide occasional short book reviews, give presentations on the Eldorado Canyon Ops in Libya and the Mayaguez Incident, and use members who have unique experiences to replace a scheduled speaker who cannot attend, were among the many thoughts.

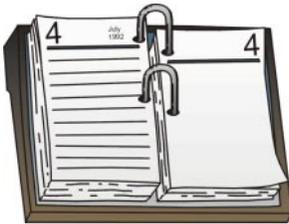
Roger and Scott suggested that, for those who desire, the monthly newsletter could be sent to them via E-mail instead of regular mail. There is no attempt to pressure members to use this plan. It would save some money required to pay for printing, postage and mailing. If you are interested let Roger or Scott know.

Welcome Aboard!

We were pleased to add two more outstanding individuals to our roster during the month of February;

Herrigstad, Harvey W. Captain, USNR (TAR)
5135 N Alto Lane, Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Norgart, Timothy S. Captain, USN
1307 Baker St., Oak Harbor, WA 98277



UPCOMING EVENTS

Guest speaker and ANA member CDR Harry Ferrier, USN (RET) will be giving us a presentation of the Battle of Midway and the Ballard/Yorktown search. This is surely one you won't want to miss. Grab a sandwich or a salad and join us at the "O" club on **April 13th**. You can see more veterans besides Harry in the April 14, 1999, EXPLORER special, "Battle for Midway." (*It will air on TBS at 8:05 pm ET*).

The National Geographic web site (nationalgeographic.com/features/98/midway/) has a wealth of information concerning the Battle of Midway in 1942 including the island defense of Midway, U.S. and Japanese air attacks, and the location of the Yorktown. Through the web site you can order a video of The Battle of Midway for 19.95 plus shipping. To get transcripts and tapes call 1-888-677-6397 or contact the NPR Order Center at P.O. Box 4370, Upper Marlborough, MD 20775-4370.

For further reading: Incredible Victory, by Walter Lord; Miracle at Midway, by Cordon W. Prange; and History of United States Naval Operations in World War II, Vol. IV, Coral Sea, Midway and Submarine Actions, May 1942-August 1942, by Samuel Eliot Morison.



As most of you know, our guest speaker CDR J.R. Russell for the March meeting was unable to attend due to naval duties elsewhere. We hope he can reschedule at a later date. Meanwhile, Commander Russell sent us this note:

"Fellow aviators, please allow me to introduce myself, CDR Jim "JR" Russell. I am the lucky SOB who gets to be the Skipper of the Wizards of VAQ-133. I want to take a moment to say thank you for the invitation to come speak to you last month about Bosnia and the Balkan region and say that I am sorry that I missed it!

I was on the J-3/5 staff at AFSOUTH in Naples Italy from 1994-1996. I had the privilege of working under Adm. Leighton "Snuffy" Smith and was part of the initial gang that was the Implementation Force (IFOR) that set up shop in Sarajevo, Bosnia. I, like you, have seen much in my naval career, but my Bosnia experience was one of the most confusing, eye-opening, tragic things I have ever been involved with. If you go to the library and pick up a tourist guide from 1970, you will find that the Dalmatian Coast was one of the most scenic spots in the Med. The history of the Balkans is rich with culture, art, and religion. Sarajevo was one of the prettiest cities I have ever seen, and I could see why it hosted the Winter Olympics only a few short years ago. When I walked the streets of Zagreb, Croatia, I thought I was in Bavaria.

If you look at old maps of Europe for each century, you will see that the Balkans are where the sea meets the shore. When the tide is in, the water controls the area, when it is out, the beach has control. During the whole time, the waves keep crashing with the shore. The Balkans have been the shore/fault line for centuries. Each of the main cultures there remembers when they were in control and that is the way they all want it today. All the sides are right and the all sides are wrong and that is the problem today. As for me, in the immortal words from the old Miller Lite beer commercials where the two sides would shout; "It Tastes Great" and "No, It's Less Filling!" As for me, I "Feel Strongly Both Ways!"

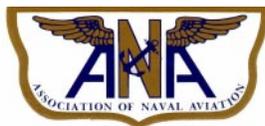


Again, I apologize for missing the opportunity to share my experiences with you. In an effort to make up for that, I would like to extend an invitation to the ANA members to come to the VAQ-133 Ready Room for coffee so that you can mingle with my young steely eyed warriors. So, our Ready Room is open for you to visit and we can talk some more on this topic and share some sea stories. Monday, May 3, 1530...Flight Jackets are encouraged! If any of you are old Wizards, we are collecting VAQ-133 memorabilia for our Ready Room, if you would like to bring an old picture or patch, will swap something for it!"

The Olympic Squadron of the ANA sent us their upcoming events calendar:

20 April:	Coast Guard Theme Day & Honors Presentation
18 May:	Marine Corps Month (Event TBA)
22 June:	Navy Month will be coordinated by CAPT John Payne, USN (RET), former skipper of USS Carl Vinson

The Olympic extends an open invitation to members of the Whidbey Island squadron to join them for their luncheons at the Port Ludlow Beach Club. They need to provide their club a firm head count for their events, so please contact either Dave Nielson at 1-360-437-2776 or Ken Sanford at 1-360-437-2968 NLT 1000 on the day prior to the luncheon if you wish to attend.



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