



Light Photographic Squadron

Sixty-two



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September 2011 VC 62/VFP62 Reunion

Light Photographic Squadron 62 celebrated a milestone this year when the unit had its second reunion since being decommissioned 43 years ago. This event took place in the birthplace of the Fighting Photographers. Forty five shipmates and guests had the opportunity to gather at the Crowne Plaza hotel on the bank of the expansive St Johns River in downtown Jacksonville, Florida.



The city is a far different city than the one that most of us were accustomed to during our active years.

Thursday evening was an opportunity to meet up with folks that some had not seen for fifty plus years. The old shipmates joined for dinner at a nearby restaurant and swapped sea stories. It didn't take long to erase the years and talk about old times that had been all but forgotten, like it was yesterday.

Friday we were given an opportunity to take a tour of NAS Cecil Field, now a civilian aviation industrial center. Some had fears that the tour would destroy old memories of the past since it no longer was a naval facility. The barracks line-up has been completely demolished and all that is left is the semi-circular drive that had been the identifying feature of the enlisted billeting area.

First stop was at one of the old hangers now occupied by the Coast Guard HITRON unit, "The Force From Above." This unit is responsible for drug interdiction in the Caribbean and the "Gulf". They are quite successful in that they have confiscated 5.6 tons of cocaine and almost a ton of marijuana this year.



Their motto ..
"The Drugs Stop Here."

Our old hanger 67 is now occupied by Boeing for special projects. The hanger was accessible for viewing only and no pictures were allowed inside. Photos could be taken from 20 feet back from the hanger doors.



We had a lunch break at the old movie theater that is now a Conference Center. There were memories of 10 cent movies but the inside of the building did not resemble the theater as we knew it.



We also went to the old ORF area (Officers Recreation Facility) to view the site where the time capsule was buried at the time the squadron was decommissioned. Find more details on the web-site of the burial and the finding of the capsule.



The "tour bus" then took us back to our hotel so we had plenty of time to get ready for Happy Hour and dinner.

Friday evening at dinner was our first opportunity to view the “time capsule” and its contents. It appeared that the capsule didn’t survive as well as many of the old squadron mates had. The water tight seal was compromised and allowed water to work on the contents over the years.



During the course of the evening “All Hands” enjoyed a great dinner of Beef of Baron and Pork Roast. No one went away feeling like they need more to eat.



Pet Wallace (ADJ2) made a presentation to Ken Jack (PH2) for his hard work in coordinating with the USS Forrestral Association in putting this reunion together. It also recognizes the work that Ken does on preserving the history of the squadron through the web-site.

Saturday evening was a gathering for a combined Banquet Dinner with the Forrestral Association. After the dinner we heard from the main speaker for the evening, Adam



Widner of the Wounded Warriors Project. He spoke about his time in combat as he served in Afghanistan in 2008. He related how he was injured and the extent of his injuries. Although he retained all of his limbs and appears to be physically whole, he suffered many physiologically issues.

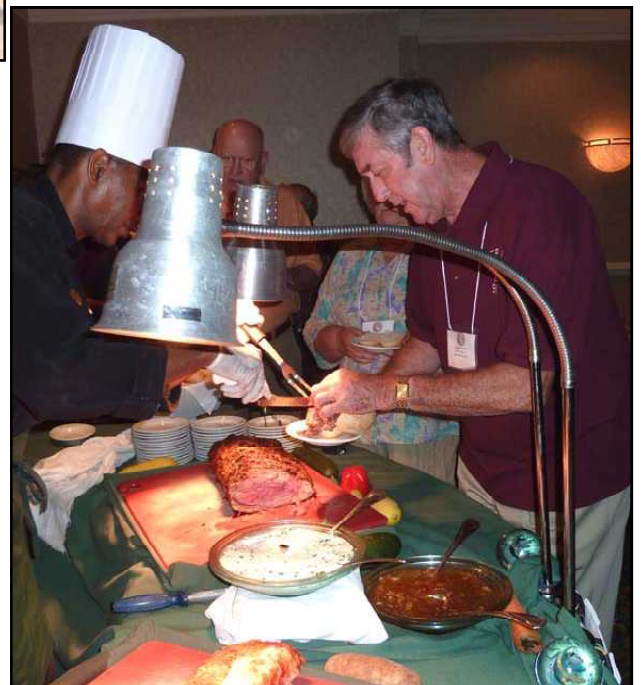
He is working through these issues thanks to the Wounded Warriors Project. During his very moving talk, the audience of 400 was taken in by his presentainon and visably moved as he related his experiances in Afganistan and the actual event of his “mission”.

Photos from the NAS Cecil Field Tour





Friday night Social





If you missed the opportunity to join the reunion this year keep it in mind for the next time. You will find this a fun opportunity to visit with old friends and make some new friends that shared a similar experience in life.



This Newsletter was edited and published by Daryl "Flip" Phillippi
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If you enjoyed this 2011 reunion, send your comments to Ken Jack at ken.dar.jack@gmail.com

Photos by Phillippi PH1 (USN ret)

VC-62/VFP-62
Reunion Attendees
Jacksonville, Florida
Sept. 15-18, 2011

1. Sid & Judy Bourgeois AMH-3, VFP-62: 1964-66
2. Charles & Pat Browning AVCM, VC/VFP-62: 1957-60
3. Jim Curry, Capt., VFP-62: 1961-63, Dets: Intrepid 1961-62, Enterprise 1962
4. George & Fay Custer Lt. Cdr. VC-62: 1954-58
5. Jack Davis, ADC VFP-62: 1960-63, Dets: Shangri La & Enterprise
6. Greg & Jeannie Engler, AT2, 1963-66, Dets: FDR ('64), Forrestal ('65-66)
7. Capt. Ed. & Sandy Feeks, VFP-62: 1962-64
8. Norm & Jean Green, Cdr., 1964-67, Dets: 62 ('64), 38 ('65), 42 (FDR '66-67)
9. Ralph Hammer ADJ-3, 1964-66, Dets: FDR '64-65
10. N.L. "Pete" Hanner, LCOL USMC & AE2, 1960-62, Dets: Forrestal, Shangri La, Independence, Saratoga
11. Mo & June Hayes, Capt. VFP-62: 1964-68 XO 1966; CO 1967-68, Dets: FDR 1965
12. Ken Jack, PH2, 1960-63, Dets: Shangri La ('60-61), Forrestal ('62-63)
13. Newby Kelt & Marci Oehler, Cdr., 1961-63, Dets: Enterprise
14. Robert King, ADJ3, 1963-66, Dets: Enterprise ('64), Forrestal ('65-66)
15. Adam Miklovis, Capt., 1960-63, Dets: Forrestal ('62-63), Intrepid
16. George Montgomery, PN3, 1963-65, Dets: Forrestal 1964-65
17. Gerald & Connie Musgrove, ATR3, 1966-68), Dets: Shangri La
18. Bill & Betty Newby, PHCM, 1960-64, Det: Enterprise 1962
19. Lee & Cheryl Perrin, 1964-67, Det: Forrestal 1964-65; FDR (Vietnam) 1967
20. Daryl & Marie Phillippi, PH1, 1957-59, Det: Saratoga
21. Thomas & Patricia Pinkley, ADJ2, 1964-65, Det: Forrestal 1964-65
22. Dr. Rodney Rogers, LT, VFP-62: 1963-64, Det: Enterprise 1964
23. Thomas & Joan Scales, ADJ3, 1964-65, Det:
24. John & Kathy Sees, PH2, VFP-62: 1962-65, Dets: Enterprise 1963, Forrestal
25. John & Lil Shatto, ADJ2, 1962-64, Dets: Saratoga
26. Robert Strong, PR3, VFP-62: 1963-66, Dets: 38, 42, 59, 60, 62, 65
27. Marion & Cym Swinford ADJ2, VFP-62 1957-60, Dets: Saratoga 1958; Essex & Forrestal
28. Pete Wallace, ADJ2, 1961-64, Dets: Enterprise, Independence, Constellation