



Radars Picket Ships

YAGRGRAM # 21

Summer 2001

C/O Harry Miller, 230 West Forest Ave., Pawtucket, RI 02860-3318, (401) 724- 7278, e-mail YAGR@MSN.COM

San Diego Reunion

YAGR'S 6th reunion is now history. We had 125 former crewmen and 100 spouses/guests for a total of 225 in attendance this year. With the exception of a snag that we ran into regarding the Friday tour, things went pretty much as planned.

A thank you goes to Mike NeSmith (AGR-9, 1961-63) for his help with this year's reunion. Mike also held a cocktail party for the early arrivals at his house on Tuesday night. I believe he had around 40 people who took him up on his hospitality. As all who attended can attest, we had a great time.

Our pre-reunion tour, which was a dinner cruise on San Diego harbor, was held on Wednesday night. It was a great success as we had 125 people who had a very enjoyable and relaxing evening.

We held the drawing of the 50/50 raffle at the Saturday morning crew meeting. Roland Cote (AGR-10, 1962-64) was the lucky winner. He walked away with \$1,216.50. He told me this will help pay for his hot tub. I just hope he thinks of us when he is using it! An equal amount of \$1,216.50 went to the Battleship Massachusetts exhibit.

Thank you to everyone who took the 50/50 raffle tickets.

We also raffled off a 3 night stay at the Town and Country Resort. Bill Hinman (AGR-4, 1955-57) was the winner so he had his stay at the resort taken care of for three nights. Something of a coincidence happened in regard to the two raffles. Both of the winners have been a great help to the Association by spending a lot of time working on our exhibit on the Massachusetts.


A vote was taken on where to hold our reunion in 2003. The results are as follows:

Pensacola, FL	56
Las Vegas, NV	41
Atlantic City, NJ	10
New Orleans, LA	4

As you can see our reunion will be in Pensacola, FL in 2003.

Also on Saturday morning our spouses/guests enjoyed a breakfast along with their penny social and tee shirt contest. Rinda Van Lennep (AGR-9) was judged as having the most interesting shirt which represented her home state of California.

At our Saturday night banquet, Cameron Durkel, District Director for the Hon. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, Member of Congress, 51st District of California, presented the Congressman's greetings.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM
51ST DISTRICT
CALIFORNIA

June 16, 2001


Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure and profound pride that I write to you from the United States House of Representatives and extend my greetings to the members of the Radar Picket Ship Association as you celebrate your reunion in San Diego.

As a United States Congressman and as a former Top Gun, I commend each of you for your contributions to our country and the sacrifices each of you made in her defense. The crews of the sixteen Guardian Class ships classified as YAGR faced the challenges of prolonged duty at sea with tours that lasted up to 250 days per year. Each of you suffered the hardship of prolonged separations from the comfort of your families. However, in true Navy tradition, each of you carried out your mission according to the highest standards of military professionalism.

Once again, best wishes for a highly successful reunion and welcome to San Diego. I hope you thoroughly enjoy your stay.

With warmest wishes,



Randy "Duke" Cunningham
Member of Congress

Cameron and I worked for months trying to set up our Friday tour with lunch on board a Navy Ship, but as things worked out these plans fell through. Every time we thought we had a ship, something would come up so that we could not visit that ship and we would have to change plans and ships again. As those of you who were at the reunion know, we never got to go on board a ship but it was not for lack of trying.

I want to thank George Sleeper (AGR-11, 1962-64, AGR-1, 1964-65) for helping me get in touch with the Congressman's office through his daughter Susan.

As a footnote to this year's reunion, the management staff at the Town & Country went out of their way to let us know what a good group we were. From what I gather, we as a group were very pleasant and, if you read between the lines, we must have been good tipsters.

For The Ladies:

Once again we had an enjoyable time at our Saturday morning breakfast. There were lots of great gifts for our penny social. Congratulations to Rinda Van Lennep (AGR-9) who won the tee shirt contest. In truth, there were so many good shirts it was hard picking a winner.

At the Newport reunion the theme of our tee shirt contest will be "My Favorite Food." You have almost a year to come up with a good idea. Everyone likes to eat so there is no excuse not to participate.

We have quite a few recipes for our cookbook. If you have a recipe you would like included, send it to Harry right away. It can be for any category - from soup, salad, casserole, main course, dessert - you name it. Give a new idea to those who like to cook or good reading to the rest of us.

Newport, RI

YAGR'S will be holding its 7th annual reunion in Newport, RI on Tuesday May 28, Wednesday May 29 and Thursday May 30, 2002. You will notice we deviated from our normal weekend days because we had to go during the week to get the best hotel rates.

Our host hotel will be the **Best Western Mainstay** (the same hotel where we held our 1st reunion) **151 Admiral Kalbus Rd, Newport, RI 02640. The toll free phone number is 877-545-5550. When making your reservations, inform them that you are with the YAGR'S reunion group. The room rate will be \$68.00 per night.** Make your reservations as soon as possible. This is very important as we expect a large turnout for this reunion. Do not make the mistake of waiting too long and finding out you are unable to get a room at the hotel. This has happened at the last 2 reunions and I was unable to do anything about it.

It is strongly suggested that you reserve now.

As you know by now, we are planning to dedicate our exhibit on board the Battleship Massachusetts at this reunion. At the present time we are planning to do this on the 29th of May, 2002. Because this dedication is a special event, it has

been suggested that as many of us as possible wear our uniforms. (dress blues with ribbons)

The reunion registration form will be sent out with the next YAGRGRAM.

The schedule will follow the same format as previous years. **Tuesday the 28th** will be for checking in and picking up your reunion packet in the hospitality room.

Wednesday the 29th will be the group tour with lunch on the Battleship Massachusetts for the dedication of our exhibit.

Thursday the 30th the men's meeting will be held in the morning. At the same time our spouses/guests will have their breakfast/penny social. That night we will have our banquet.

Something to note for our handicapped members who are planning to attend the reunion. The hospitality room we have at the hotel is located on the second floor and there is not an elevator to reach this floor. Also to gain access to the battleship a steep brow (gangway) will have to be negotiated to reach the main deck. Also our exhibit is located on the second deck of the battleship. To reach it you will have to descend a steep ladder to reach the second deck.

Radar Picket Ship Exhibit Battleship Massachusetts

Fall River, MA

Work has picked up on the Massachusetts. John Hemminger (AGR-2, 1960-61), Roland Cote (AGR-10, 1960-62) and Harry Miller (AGR-11, 1962-64, YR-65, 1964-65) spent some time on readying the ship signs for installation. We had to put inserts into the back side of the signs so that they can be installed without any fasteners showing on the face of the signs.

The cleaning of the compartment is just about complete. Also the priming of all bare metal and wood has been done. The painters have just moved all of their equipment into the compartment, so the painting will start any day now.

Once the painting is done we can start erecting the history of radar display along with its base. Then we will start setting up the displays we have and the ship models will be readied for display.

The lighting fixtures will have to be reinstalled (we had to dismantle them for the painting) and wiring run to the fixtures.

With the \$1,216.50 brought in from the 50/50 raffle and donations received, we have \$10,931.51 to cover the work for our exhibit.

Off Site Work Going On. Ships Plaques

Lee Doyel (AGR-15, 1960-62) has completed three of the seven plaques he is working on. He had two of the plaques at the reunion so that we could see his handiwork. I think everyone was pleased with the results.

Wanted Items For Exhibit

We are still looking for the following items
Ship Shoulder Patches (ship names)

Picket and Interdictor

Cigarette Lighters

AGR 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 16

YAGR 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15

Hats

As you know by now the company that we were buying hats from went out of business last January. Locating another company that would provide good hats with a good embroidered silhouette has proven to be a problem. I have been in touch with 3 companies and they could not give us a good product. The search goes on. When we find a supplier I will put the word out and start taking orders for hats once again.

If you or anybody you know can be of help, get in touch with me.

Looking For Information On Father

I received a request from
Debbie Hudson
685 Benleo Rd
Bowling Green, KY 42101
(270) 777-1031

Looking for information on her father Olith Vincent who served on the Interceptor during the late 50's. If you have any information, please get in touch with her.

YAGR'S

1,529 Former Crewmen Located

If you have any information on any former crewmen, please get it to me and I'll try to locate them; or if you know of someone, get in touch with them and let them know that an organization has been formed for the Radar Picket Ships.

Anything you can do to locate former shipmates will be greatly appreciated.

DUES

Dues are now being collected for our new year
June 1, 2001 to May 31, 2002.

If you have paid your dues, there will be a date above your name on the mailing label. If there is no date, your dues are now due.

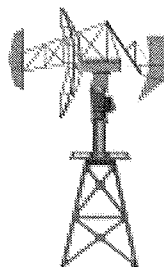
When you pay your dues, an up-dated list of former crewmen we have been in touch with from your ship/ships will be sent to you along with your new membership card. If you have paid your dues and not received your card or list, please get in touch with me.

Dues are \$17.00 for the first year and \$15.00 each following year.

LOST

We have lost track of 2 more former crewmen because they did not notify us of their change of address.

If you are moving, please let us know so that this will not happen to you. Also include your new phone number.



Information Wanted

We would like to get information on the radar systems that were in use onboard the ships. What is especially needed are technical manuals, course books, schematics, etc. Anything you send will be returned to you. **It is very important that we get this information as soon as possible!**

Ships Awarded Service Medals

While browsing the internet I ran across a web page

<http://neds.nebt.daps.mil/o1650.html>

that listed ships and the service awards that they earned. The following list of ships and awards was compiled from this web page.

It is interesting that the dates appear to cover the period of the Bay of Pigs invasion but none of the dates covers the Cuban Missile crisis except for the Outpost. I do not understand this as all of the East coast ships were involved in the crisis in one way or another. Maybe at a later date the other 7 ships will be included. RADRON TWO was not listed as having received any awards.

I did not see any awards that were made to the West coast ships. If anyone comes up with anything other than what I have here, please let me know so that I can put the word out.

I have enclosed the Standard Form 180, the form that has to be sent to the below listed address to request Military Awards and Decorations that you earned while in the service. Also you can use it to request your DD 214.

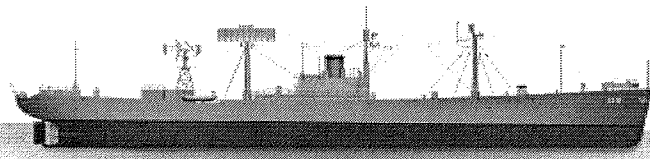
The address to send the enclosed form is

Bureau of Naval Personnel
Liaison Office Room 5409
9700 Page Ave.

St Louis, MO 63132-5100

It can take 14 to 16 weeks for a response.

This is all the information I have. If you have any questions, please get in touch with your Veterans Office in your home town or State.



RADAR PICKET SHIP FACTS



NAVY EXPEDITIONARY SERVICE MEDAL

	SHIP		START DATE	END DATE
USS	GUARDIAN	AGR-1	09 JUNE, 1961 18 JULY, 1961	10 JUNE, 1961 19 JULY, 1961
USS	LOOKOUT	AGR-2	30 JUNE, 1961 08 AUG, 1961	22 JULY, 1961 NONE GIVEN
USS	SKYWATCHER	AGR-3	15 MAY, 1961 26 JUNE, 1961 23 SEPT, 1961 13 OCT, 1961	11 JUNE, 1961 27 JUNE, 1961 07 OCT, 1961 14 OCT, 1961
USS	SEARCHER	AGR-4	20 APRIL 1961 27 MAY, 1961	16 MAY, 1961 28 MAY, 1961
USS	INVESTIGATOR	AGR-9	31 AUG, 1961 13 OCT, 1961	25 SEPT, 1961 14 OCT, 1961
USS	OUTPOST	AGR-10	11 AUG, 1961 01 OCT, 1961 21 JULY, 1961	02 SEPT, 1961 15 OCT, 1961 23 OCT, 1961
USS	PROTECTOR	AGR-11	11 APRIL, 1961 08 MAY, 1961	22 APRIL, 1961 09 MAY, 1961
USS	VIGIL		21 JULY, 1961 29 AUG, 1961	13 AUG, 1961 30 AUG, 1961



ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

USS	OUTPOST	AGR-10	29 OCT, 1962	15 DEC, 1962
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Cold War Recognition Certificate

In accordance with section 1084 of the Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of Defense approved awarding Cold War Recognition Certificates to all members of the armed forces and qualified federal government civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War era, from Sept. 2, 1945, to Dec. 26, 1991.

Requests will be accepted beginning April 5, 1999.

Who is eligible? All members of the armed forces and federal government civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945, to Dec. 26, 1991.

Acceptable documents for proof of service.

1. DD Form 214 (certificate of release/discharge from active duty).
2. WD AGO (Form 53-55 war department separation document).
3. Oath of Office - Military personnel or letter of appointment.

Sample Letter To Send For Your Cold War Certificate

John Doe
P.O. Box 000
Pleasantville, Virginia 00000
April 5, 1999

CDR, PERSCOM
COLD WAR RECOGNITION, HOFFMAN II
ATTN: TAPC-CWRS, 3N45
200 STOVALL STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332-0473

Please send me a Cold War Recognition Certificate for my service to the United States government during the authorized period of September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991.

Enclosed is a copy of source document with my Social Security Number/Military Service Number/Foreign Service Number, which verifies my service during the Cold War Era. I understand that the enclosed copy of source document will not be returned.

Please mail my Cold War Recognition Certificate to the following address:

John Doe
P.O. Box 000
Pleasantville, Virginia 00000

Submission of this request confirms my faithful service to the nation during the Cold War Era. If my service was in the Armed Forces, I further certify that my discharge was honorable or general under honorable conditions. If I served as a federal civilian employee, I further certify that the character of my service was honorable.

Sincerely,

John Doe

RADAR PICKET SHIPS

San Diego Reunion

YAGR'S
6th Annual Reunion
Held At The
Town & Country
Resort & Convention
Center
June 14, 15, 16, 2001

