

**T**o all chapters,



Please review your information on the Chapter Meetings - Places - Times - Dates section on page 3. E-mail your changes to me and JJ LaMaitre. I know some of the phone numbers don't match up and I also need a few E-mail addresses. I get the occasional call from AO's inquiring about a meeting in a certain area and its nice to give them up to date information. If you don't see your chapter on here let me know that also please.

Thanks for the help, Editor

Check us out on Facebook.....  
"The Red Shirt"

Kevin,

Greetings from the USS KEARSARGE, A picture for the Red Shirt

THE WEAPONS DEPARTMENT IN DEFENSE SUPPORT OF CIVIL AUTHORITIES DISASTER (DSCA) RELIEF EFFORTS FROM HURRICANES IRMA AND MARIA IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS AND PUERTO RICO ONBOARD USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3) FROM SEPTEMBER 2017 TO NOVEMBER 2017

Hope all is well, take care.

Thanks,  
Gun Boss  
Daniel J. Pratt  
USS Kearsarge (LHD 3)

VFA-2, part of CVW-2 currently embarked on CVN-70 recognized as the shop of the quarter for their squadron. Outstanding showing during both AMI and MCI inspections. Kicked ass during SUSTEX and now deployed in the C7F theater.

V/r,  
CAG Gunner

LT Douglas A. Kesterson  
CVW-2 "GUNNER"





**Plan to Attend the 2018**  
**AAO CONVENTION**  
25 July – 29 July



**800/687-8733**  
or online at  
[www.silverlegacyreno.com](http://www.silverlegacyreno.com)

**Book Code: AAO18**

Must Make Reservations By 3 July  
Rates are good from 24 July thru July 31

**Sunday – Thursday**  
Standard Room - **\$71**

**Friday & Saturday**  
Standard Room - **\$95**

Deluxe Spa Suites Are Available

**Free Airport Shuttle**

For Convention Information, Call:

**Kirk Brado**

619-962-6158 or email: [kbrado1@hotmail.com](mailto:kbrado1@hotmail.com)

## PREZ

Hello AAO Family,

I pray all is well with you and yours. I will start by saying I hope your holiday season and plans went well and that you are enjoying a great new year to date. Things are progressing well with our association and I remain honored to be at the helm of our esteemed organization.

Pat and I were fortunate to attend the 2018 mid-year planning meeting January 10-14 in Laughlin, NV. I am extremely appreciative to every individual who made it out this year to participate in detailed forecasting and planning for our continuum and convention preparation efforts. You know who you are and so do we.

This year at the planning meeting we felt privileged to also have CAPT (Sel) Matthew "Matt" Arnold in attendance. In my previous Red Shirt article I informed members that CAPT (Sel) Arnold now sits in our Senior AO TYCOM "operational" billet at COMNAVAIRPAC. CAPT, thanks for your continuous transparent support of our cherished professional association. It was a pleasure having you and your charming bride Melissa with us.

In this article you will find the flyer that pinpoints dates for our 2018 AAO Convention in July. I get very excited this time of year and hope you are making plans to attend. Our TYCOMs east and west, in concert with HQ USMC, are also working to gain approval for this year's Aviation Ordnance Manager's Leadership Continuum (AOMLC). AOMLC usually precedes the AAO Convention in Reno, NV. If our request is successfully approved, the tentative dates for the AOMLC are 23-26 July 2018.

I have a specific request for Chapters. Please keep in touch with National Secretary JJ LaMaitre AOCM (Ret). His information is provided in every issue of our Red Shirt.

I want to make sure you are represented at the National AAO level. We need your assistance keeping your reports and current officers on an incoming vector. Also, in 2017 we did not receive annual reports from 14 of our 27 Local Chapters (note page 14 of our last RS issue #133). I am personally requesting for assistance from Chapter Officers and/or our outstanding Ordnance Community Leaders to provide a little oversight and encouragement where necessary to close the gap on timely reporting responsibilities. Thanks in advance for your assistance. IYAOYAS!!!

For those who do not already know it, Ordie #1, CAPT William "Bill" Bindel, now serves as the LDO/CWO Community's "SILVER EAGLE", meaning he is the senior LDO in the Navy! Bill, Congratulations!!! We look forward to seeing you at this year's AOMLC and Convention. I have Intel he is planning to attend (smile).

As always, we salute the Marines and Sailors continually protecting our great nation. Every AAO and AAAO member understands the challenges deployment presents you and your families. As you execute your duties, know that we are appreciative of the sacrifices you make. Thank you for the protective shield you provide.

How many people know the individual in the first photo below? Allow me to inform those who do not. I am standing next to one of our very first LDO Captains, CAPT (Ret) Ralph Spangler. Ralph was my Gun Boss on board USS RANGER (CV 61) many moons ago that took our Weapons Department to war during the first Desert Storm. Recently he visited Norfolk, VA and I had the pleasure of escorting him and a few of his friends on board our newest aircraft carrier USS GERALD R. FORD (CVN 78). I was ecstatic to see him following quite a few years. I believe we may be fortunate to see him at this year's convention. Fingers crossed. I would really like to see plenty of our 1991 Ranger Combat Ordies attend this year.

Take care all and IYAOYAS!!!

*Dion J. Edon*



*AAO National President Dion Edon with CAPT (Retired) Ralph Spangler on board USS GERALD R. FORD (CVN 78)*



*Denise Walecki, Teresa Zimmer, and Patricia Edon, AAAO Leadership, 2018 Convention Mid-Year Planning Meeting Laughlin, NV*



*Commanding Officer CNATT-U NAS Oceana CDR Dave Moore with CWO4 (Ret) Redd Manor and AAO National President Dion Edon Command*



*Tim Zimmer, Rob Walecki, and Dion Edon, AAO Leadership, 2018 Convention Mid-Year Planning Meeting Laughlin, NV*

## VP

Hello Ordies!

I hope this edition of the Redshirt finds you all in good health and spirits and I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday season. By the time you read this article we will have already conducted the Pre-Convention meeting in Laughlin NV over MLK day, I'm sure it will have been a productive meeting as usual. It's part of the business end of the Association and I would like

*(Continued on page 11)*



(Continued from page 10)

to thank all that attended this year for your support to the Association. Only about 5 months left before we hold this year's Symposium and Convention at the Silver Legacy in Reno NV. For those of you that have never attended one, you are missing out on some valuable information, as well as seeing old friends and making new ones. I cannot stress enough to everyone, please get involved, it's YOUR Association, and you'll enjoy yourself as well! In addition, it is time to start thinking about your inputs to the various Committees that will meet at the Convention, such as the John W. Finn Aviation Ordnanceman of the Year, Hall of Fame, and the numerous scholarships that are available. We had a pretty low number of packages for the AOY last year and I hope that'll increase this year. Recognize your hard chargers and submit them for this honor. If you would like to see how these committee's work and select the winners, check the box next to the committee you want to sit on when you submit your convention ticket letter. The committee's meet on the Friday of the convention. Times will be posted in Redshirt as well as at the convention.

We will also be voting on National Officers during our Saturday General Business meeting. The Office of President, as well as 2 Board of Directors positions will be open to nominations. As per our By-Laws, if you are going to nominate someone for any of these positions, remember, prior consent of the candidate is required before the name is placed in nomination. Candidates must be present at the General Business meeting unless previously approved by the Board of Directors. Nominations will also be taken from the floor during the Business meeting, the above requirement still applies. Absentee ballots will be included in the next Redshirt prior to the Convention. Nominations for the above mentioned offices have a submission deadline date of 1 April 2017 so the candidate's names can be placed in the Redshirt prior to the convention for absentee balloting purposes. The General Business meeting is a very important part of OUR Association, I hope to see everyone there.

Keep an eye out in the next edition of the Redshirt for a new Membership Program that will start in June and run through the Association Year (June 18- May 19).

Hope to see everyone in July and tip a few brews with ya! Stay safe out there, especially those of you who are in harm's way and IYAOYAS!

Rob (NVP)

---

## SECRETARY

Greetings Shipmates and Marines – Hope you all had a safe Holiday Season. We saw record numbers in Laughlin at the Aquarius Resort for the Convention Planning Meeting over the Martin Luther King weekend, a good time was had by all. A BIG thank you for the east coast folks (Norfolk and Jacksonville) who showed up.

Start NOW to make your plans for Continuum & Convention will be held at the Silver Legacy Resort, Reno, NV (Continuum) from 23 July thru 26 July 2018, and (Convention) from 25 July thru 29 July. Chapters need to contact Kirk Brado (POC info in this Red Shirt) to set up tables to sell merchandise. Our numbers have trended up last year with folks staying over from the Continuum. We are seeing families with children attending.

Chapter Officers – BIG CHANGES are coming. Currently we have 28 'Active Chapters' HOWEVER I have only received reports from 9 Chapters since June 1st (FY)! The Board of Directors (BOD) is aware that we have many Chapters not reporting the minutes or the annual financial report to the Treasurer. You need to get into the National By-Laws (Article IX) to see what your responsibilities are. I need the Chapter Reports forwarded to me on a regular basis so we do not put your Chapter into an 'Inactive' status. Please forward the minutes, etc. to

aaosec@cox.net.

It has been a privilege to serve as your Secretary for the past 3 years, thank you for your confidence.

R,

JJ LaMaitre

AAO Secretary

---

## TREASURER

Convention 2018 is fast approaching, time to get your pre-registration forms to me. We just completed our planning meeting in Laughlin and it looks like prices will stay the same as last year. For you Ordies who are not members of the National and intend to come to the Convention, DON'T register as a non-member. Pay the member \$25.00 registration fee and add the \$20.00 for a membership. For you E-4 and below who plan on coming, you get one year membership with your registration fee. If you are a non-member, I will sign you up with your registration. Cut off for pre-reservation is 16 July 2018. Anything mailed after that may not get to me before I leave for Reno.

For the Chapters, keep up the good job you've been doing recruiting. You are the tip of the spear for keeping the Association strong.

Have you had a promotion, change of status (recently retired) or phone number change? If so, give me a shout at the contact info below so I can update your record.

Address changes are still a problem. I need your changes as soon as you know you are moving. The mailing costs associated with Red Shirt returns are getting out of hand. I try my best to make sure those entitled to a Red Shirt get it. But when I don't have an updated address, I have to pay the post office for its return. That said, in the future, when I get a Renewal Notice or Red Shirt returned to me, I am removing that person from the Red Shirt list until I have a current mailing address. If you see someone's name on the locator list, let them know. Sign up to get yours electronically!!! All you have to do is go to the web site, and download the Red Shirt. If you move or have a PCS coming up, get those address changes to me prior to the move. You can make them via the web site, via snail mail; phone (619) 575-1895; or (preferred) you can e-mail them to me at [aaotreas2011@cox.net](mailto:aaotreas2011@cox.net). Chapter officers, division LPO's, shipmates, if you know a member is transferring, talk to them about submitting an address change. If you see somebody you know on the Locator, it means I don't have their current mailing address and can't send them update materials. If you know their e-mail address, drop them a line to get in touch with me.

FYI the US Postal Service has an on-line Change of Address section, see it at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com).

IYAOYAS!

R,

Thomas Lord

AAO Treasurer

# HAZE GRAY FROM OVERSPRAY

Mark Nitzsche, Project Engineer - Air Warfare Group  
NSWC IHEODTD DET Picatinny Naval PHST Center

You have to obliterate some markings from a container. You grab a can of spray paint and make quick work of it. The result to the nameplate below is something like this:



The nameplate is still legible, but after a few more sprays maybe not. From P805:

*Content markings (loading date, lot/serial numbers, MDD and DOT/CG markings) shall have been removed/obliterated. As containers are intended for reuse, take care to avoid stenciling over, marking over, removing or obliterating permanent markings associated with container identification.*

## NOTE

*Serviceable, emptied containers are intended for re-use. To prevent increased maintenance costs, stenciling shall be accomplished neatly and in a reasonable size. Avoid stenciling or marking over permanent markings. Also, take care to ensure permanent markings are not removed or obliterated*



A little overspray can add up. Tape or even just a piece of paper or cardboard in a strategic position can help avoid the time and cost associated with replacement of a nameplate and/or other re-marking.



va-45 ao's. (l to r) atc d. lawrence, ao3 j. barker, aoan c. proctor, ltjg g. tideman, ao3 k. glover, ao2 s. hoover.

