

## PREZ

Hello AO Family,

I pray all is well with you and yours. I will start by saying I hope you had as great a time as I did at the 2017 AO Convention in Reno. Just like last year it was a blast and our guest speaker, RDML Gregory "HYFI" Harris provided professional words of wisdom intertwined with some extremely amusing "read" hilarious annotations. He definitely kept us leaning forward waiting for more. Admiral, please accept one last time our sincere thanks for your attendance. You and your lovely bride Stacey are welcome back anytime.

The Aviation Ordnance Manager's Leadership Continuum preceded the convention and that went very well. For those who did not make it this year, you missed some great briefs and a grand opportunity to network with USMC and USN Aviation Ordnance Leadership from around the globe. Do yourself favor and be sure to attend next year if you are available. You will not be disappointed.

My hat's off to the Marines and Sailors who continue to do all they can to protect this great nation of ours. We know the challenges deployments bring to family and loved ones. As you go about doing your duties at home and abroad, know that we are in your corner and appreciate the sacrifices you make daily. Thank you for being there and for all you do.

Congratulations to Captain Bill Bindel, our Ordie One, on a successful tour on staff at COMNAVAIRFOR/COMNAVAIRPAC. We value and appreciate the leadership you provided for our community. Good luck to you and family in your new position with Joint Forces. We know you remain firmly in our corner and will be looking forward to chatting with you at future continuums and conventions.

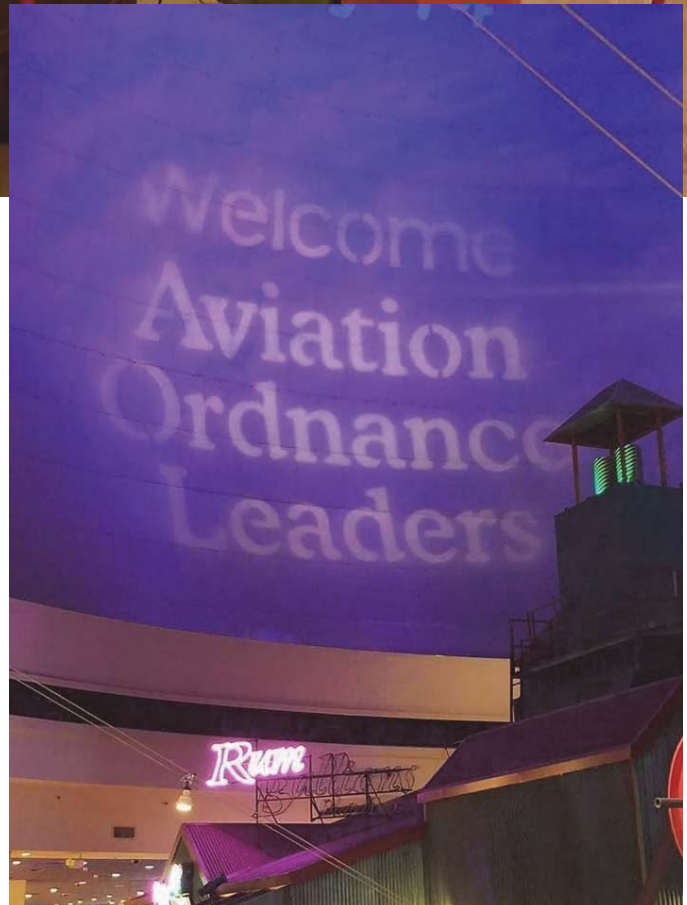
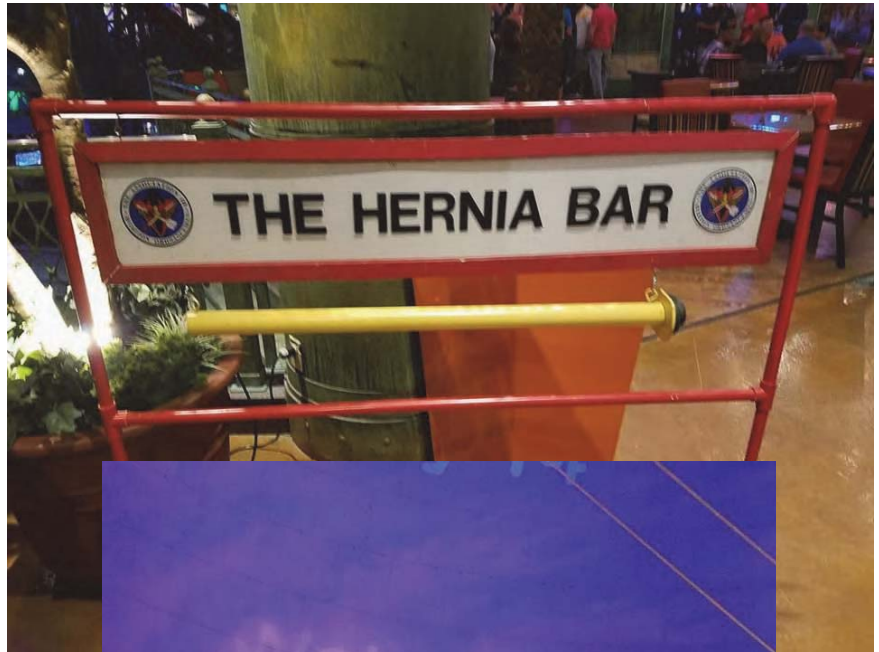
CAPT Bindel was relieved by our newest CAPT Select, CDR Matthew Arnold. Matt, we are grateful to have you at the helm and looking forward to your guidance and leadership while working with you as the ordnance community moves forward in the years ahead. So from all of us... Welcome!

A hearty congratulations to all who promoted, advanced, retired, honorably departed service, completed degrees or technical programs and the like since our last Red Shirt. I see and hear of so many great accomplishments and feel compelled to salute occasionally to acknowledge our family's great works. Also, I would like to recognize our latest two CWO5s selectees, Scott Lagerquist and Dave Meers. Congratulations on your success! We would love to see you both next year.

The Red Shirt issue following our annual convention is normally the largest issue we send to print. No matter how many times I say it I never feel that I accurately convey to our editor Kevin Meagher how much we appreciate the hard work it requires to bring the issues together. Once again I am duty-bound to say "Thanks Kevin" from all of us. If I hit the lotto big... really big... I will staff up our newsletter properly. Until that time, thanks for remaining our exceptional Editing Authority.

By the time the next Red Shirt issue goes to print, another holiday season will have come and gone. So until the next time, have a very blessed Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year's!!!

Take care all and IYAOYAS!!!  
Dion J. Edon



## SECRETARY

Greetings Shipmates and Marines –

GREAT Continuum/ AOLMC and Convention in Reno this year. Was good seeing you all there, start NOW to make your plans for Continuum & Convention will be held at the Silver Legacy, Reno, NV (Continuum/ AOLMC) from 24 July thru 28 July 2018, and (Convention) from 27 July thru 31 July. Chapters need to contact Kirk Brado (POC info in this Red Shirt) to set up tables to sell merchandise.

Chapter Officers – I need the Chapter Reports forwarded to me on a continuing basis so we do not put your Chapter into an 'Inactive' status. Please forward the minutes, etc. to [aaosec@cox.net](mailto:aaosec@cox.net).

The following Chapters have not been heard from in the past year: Chapter 11 (2 years); Chapter 39 (Just heard from GYSGT Farmer in work to get stood back up); Chapter 69; Chapter 71; Chapter 72 (2 years); Chapter 76; Chapter Key West; Chapter USS Boxer; & Chapter Makin Island. Senior Leadership if your Chapter is listed, please get a hold of National to so we know you are still alive. Have a safe Holiday Season, hope to see some of you in Laughlin at the Aquarius (Code AAO18) on January 11th – 14th for the Convention Planning Meeting over the Martin Luther King weekend, a good time for all. See the info elsewhere in this Red Shirt for more details.

Lastly to Petty Officer Patrick Neal from Chapter 73, a big THANK YOU for the assist in Reno in the reception area. You are awesome.

R,  
John (JJ) LaMaitre  
AAO Secretary

## TREASURER

Great showing at Convention 2017. The numbers were a little less than last year, but still a good showing. I still had a lot of walk-ups, but once again, not as many as last year.

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.

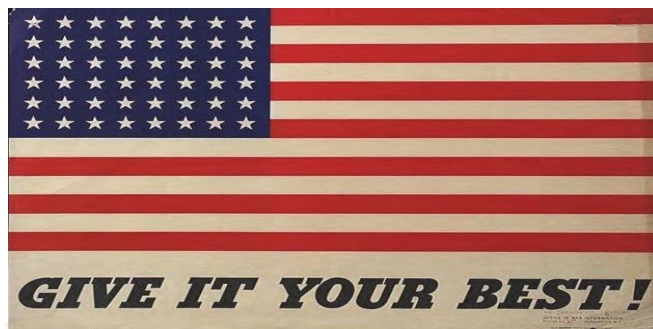
FYI the US Postal Service has an on-line Change of Address section, see it at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com).

IYAOYAS!

R,  
Thomas Lord  
AAO Treasurer



VAQ-134





# ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN 2017 GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Dion Edon, President, called the 2017 Association of Aviation Ordnance General Business Meeting to order at 0908, 29 July 2017, at the Silver Legacy Resort, Reno NV. He then led the General Membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the Updated Ordie song was played.

Rick Garza, Chaplain Pro Tem, gave the opening prayer.

The business of the Association was then initiated.

There were 62 Members present for the Business Meeting. The Registration list is Enclosure (1) to these minutes.

### **General Announcements:**

The President reminded everyone in attendance to fill out a General Business Meeting Registration card.

### **Official Announcements:**

In accordance with ARTICLE VII, Section 2 to the By-Laws the privilege of nominating, making motions, debating and voting is reserved for Regular Members of the Association during the course of this meeting.

Under Roberts Rules Article 31, when we get to the elections the President will, after giving ample opportunity to make nominations from the floor, with no further nominations coming, close the nominations. A motion to close nominations will not be in order.

### **Report On The Board Of Directors Actions During The Course Of The Year:**

Approved the FY 2017/2018 Budget.

Approved the 2016 Board of Directors Minutes.

Approved motion for AAOY to be E-6 and below.

Approved motion for 'Guidelines for awards and the establishment of awards should be vested in the Committee Chairman as appointed by the President.'

Approved Nanise Schroeder to take over as AAO Reunion Book & Convention Historian Committee from Chuck Onken.

Approved all Standing Committee Chairman as listed in the Officer Roster dated August 2016.

Approved travel expenses for COL Douglas 'Smash' Yurovich, USMC Ret. as Guest Speaker for the 2017 Aviation Ordnance Leadership Continuum. Donations from Senior Leadership covered the \$1,000 expense by passing the hat with an additional \$240 going to scholarship.

John (JJ) LaMaitre, Secretary, reported the minutes of the 2016 General Business Meeting was published in Red Shirt #131 with additional copies being available in the rear of the room and on the tables. A synopsis of the minutes were given after which the President called for any required corrections or deletions. A motion was made and seconded to accept the 2016 General Business Meeting Minutes as published. Without objection the motion was passed. The 2016 General Business Minutes are enclosure (2) to these minutes.

The Treasurer then gave the Financial Report. Copies of the 2017/2018 Approved Budget and 2016/2017 Expenditure Report are available in the rear of the room. Any questions please feel free to ask. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Financial Report as delivered. Without objection the motion was passed. The 2017/2018 Approved Budget is enclosure (3) to these minutes.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **2017 Convention Committee, Kirk Brado –**

The 2017 Convention is another great success and no major issues have come up. 2018 dates are July 24, 2018 to July 31, 2018. Received an extension through 2021 for the Convention to be held here at the Silver Legacy. Dates TBA. Planning Conference to be held in Laughlin, NV at the Aquarius Resort on January 11th – 14th 2018. Reservation Code 'AAO18'.

#### **Membership Committee, Rob Walecki –**

Recruitment was down this year. Mostly due to no big recruiting drives in the afloat chapters. This also had an impact on retention. Most of the new members from the afloat chapters that joined last year did not renew. We did see some action on Vinson and Kaneohe Bay, but nothing spectacular from any place else. Most of the ashore chapters seem to just remain at the same level. The only consistent increases I see are the really strong ones like Chapter 1, Chapter 3, Chapter 5, Chapter 8 and Chapter 9. Active duty membership at the afloat and NMC activities will not improve until we get the senior leadership involved, especially in the afloat chapters. The successful ones usually have a good AO1 who drives the chapter. But when they transfer, the chapter folds again. The following is provided for your information:

	FY15-16	FY16-17
Total of all Current Members	1718	1721
Past Due (June01 – May 31)	175	208
Life Members (Included above)	864	887
Honorary (Included above)	153	153
Current Dues Paying (Including above)	526	473

During FY16 -17 we had the following new members:

New Regular Members	239	137
New Associate Members	12	7
New Life Members	46	25
Total Inactive Members:	7328	7458
Total Unknown Members	96	98
Total Deceased Members	600	619

#### **Nomination Committee, Rob Walecki Chairman –**

The following offices are open for election/reelection:

Treasurer:

Thomas E. Lord, AOCM USN (Ret.) (Incumbent)

Board of Directors (Two):

Jeffrey P. Sassone Commander, USN (Ret) (Incumbent)

Laura A. Colby, AOC, USN (Incumbent)

Nominee Treasurer:

Thomas E. Lord, AOCM USN (Ret.) (Incumbent)

Nominees Board of Directors:

Jeffrey P. Sassone Commander, USN (Ret) (Incumbent)

Laura A. Colby, AOC, USN (Incumbent)

If no nomination(s) from the floor, the Treasurer's Office will be fill by Voice vote and Seconded by members present.

If floor nominations are received a ballot will be required, the nominee must be here and accept the nomination, the voting will be conducted by the ballots that the Vice President has made up that were handed out as the members checked in for the General Business Meeting, and their membership was verified to be current.

I will go over the voting procedures prior to the voting and again before each vote is taken.

#### ***Absentee voting status – Rob Walecki***

Total Ballots Received: 08

Invalid Ballots due to not a member or Associate Member: 0

Invalid Ballots: 1

Total Ballots to count during Voting: 07

Last Year's Ballots received: 09

#### ***AO Scholarship Committee, Rick Garza Chairman -***

There was nineteen packages received of which two were invalidated leaving seventeen applicants up for consideration. Six members including one active duty and one Auxiliary member made up the committee and represented over 209 years of Ordnance experience. Chapters please get the word out for more applicants. A total of \$29,000 in Scholarships were awarded. The winners were announced at the Awards Banquet and are presented here for the record:

#### **Scholarship Winners For 2017**

##### **Association of Aviation Ordnancemen**

**Robert L. Crow**

**\$4,000 Scholarship Award (1)**

**Joseph T. Famularo, Son of Henry Famularo**

**Robert L. Crow**

**\$3,000 Scholarship Award (2)**

**Marcella J. Burmeister, Daughter of Shawn Burmeister  
Megan Williamson, Granddaughter of Gary Laun**

**Robert L. Crow**

**\$2,500 Scholarship Award (4)**

**Mikayla Howorka, Daughter of Gary Howorka  
Sydney Barba, Daughter of Migual Barba  
Lindze Jakobs, Step Daughter of Gary Howorka  
Morgan Bindschatel, Daughter of Mical Bindschatel**

#### **2017 Additional Scholarship Award Winners**

**Huntington Ingalls Shipbuilding Newport News, VA  
\$2,500 Scholarship Award (2)**

**Jordan P. Jakobs, Step Daughter of Gary Howorka  
Michael V. Panis, Grandson of Norman Peters**

**Memory of Miao (Penny) Senneseth  
\$2,000 Scholarship Award (2)**

**Kimberly R. Zimmer,  
Daughter in Law of Timothy Zimmer  
Shelby A. Howard, Daughter of James Howard**

#### ***AO of the Year Committee, Tim Zimmer Chairman –***

The committee considered 42 packages. 17 Members including active duty and retired members were there to grade the packages representing over 385 years of Ordnance experience. The winners were announced at the Awards Banquet and are presented here for the record:

#### **Association of Aviation Ordnancemen John W. Finn Aviation Ordnancemen of the Year For 2017**

**AO1 (AW/SW) Jordan Chapman**

#### **Aviation Ordnancemen of the Year For 2017 Runner-Up**

**AO1 (AW/SW) Jeremy Reed**

#### ***AO Hall of Fame Committee, Jeff Sassone Chairman –***

There were four packages up for consideration. Eight members made up the committee and represented over 276 years of Ordnance experience including 4 former Association Presidents, and one Chapter President. The winners were announced at the Awards Banquet and are presented here for the record:

#### **Association of Aviation Ordnancemen AO Hall of Fame Selectee's for 2017**

**CDR Jeffrey L. McComb USN (Ret.)**

**LT Allen E. Ten Eyck USN (Ret.)**

**MGYSGT Marc A. Senecal USMC (Ret.)**

#### ***Reunion Book Committee, Nanise Schroeder Chairman –***

Had members give a hand to Chuck and Bev Onken for their many years as the Reunion Book Committee Co-Chairs. Beverly Onken has done a great job with AAO REUNION BOOK Editor. Reunion Book is \$25 cash or check. Thanked Sheryl Scanlon for her continuing volunteering to take the pictures. She requested that everyone get their pictures taken starting at 1500.

### **By-Laws Committee, Kirk Brado Chairman –**

There were no changes to be voted on this year, several Chapters need to finish up with the standardized Chapter By-Laws.

Safety Committee, UNK Chairman – President Dion Edon stressed that safety is paramount in our day to day business. Angela Sobieski stressed that everyone has to take care of one another and not only do the right thing but do it by the book.

### **AO Museum Committee, Tim Carroll Chairman –**

No Report

### **Newsletter Report, Kevin Meagher Chairman –**

Report given by Dion Edon. A new printer was found after owner passed away and family closed the business. With the new printer there minor issues with first Red Shirt printing, and the second Red Shirt printing went much better with the price point a bit better. Kevin is engaged and is still putting out a great Red Shirt and welcomes all inputs from the Chapters.

### **AAO Website Report – Johnny Wheat Chairman**

The Website is up and running since 1995 as Chapter 1 and in 1997 was switched over to National. The cost has remained at about \$205.00 a year to run. We will be renewing our domain name and there will be a slight increase to the budget. Have had 20,456 hits in past year. Website lists all officers and board members, it is imperative that Chapters keep their officers up to date.

### **Chaplain Report – Mart Vance –**

Written report read into the record by JJ LaMaitre. A total of 10 contacts/ sympathy cards and letters of condolence were sent in all cases as long as NOK info available and current.

### **Chapter Reports:**

There are presently 27 active Chapters.

Chapter 1	NAS Lemoore, CA	Jeff Coe
Chapter 3	NAS Whidbey Island, WA	Andrew Yoakum
Chapter 4	Tidewater Area, VA	Zac MacDonald
Chapter 5	China Lake, CA	Read Into Record
Chapter 8	San Diego, CA	John Holdman
Chapter 9	Jacksonville, FL	Jack Elrod
Chapter 11	Kaneohe Bay, HI	NoReport(2years)
Chapter 21	NAS Fallon, NV	Daniel Hasten
Chapter 22	Patuxent River, MD	Joseph Breault
Chapter 34	Pensacola, FL	Gil Mine'
Chapter 39	Beaufort SC	No Report (4 years)
Chapter 671	Guam	Read Into Record
Chapter 68	USS Nimitz CVN 68	Deployed
Chapter 69	USS Eisenhower CVN 69	No Report
Chapter 70	USS Vinson CVN-70	Jeffery Anderson
Chapter 71	USS Roosevelt	No Report
Chapter 72	USS Lincoln CVN 72	No Report
Chapter 73	USS Geo Washington CVN-73 (RCOH)	
Chapter 74	USS Stennis CVN 74	No Report
Chapter 75	USS Truman CVN 75	No Report
Chapter 76	USS Ronald Reagan CVN 76	No Report (2 Years)
Chapter 77	USS George Bush CVN 77	Angela Sobieski
Chapter 78	USS Gerald Ford CVN 78	No Report
Desert/Southwest Chapter	El Centro, CA	Nanise Schroeder
Chapter Key West	Key West FL	No Report

Chapter LHD-4	USS Boxer	No Report
Chapter LHD-8	USS Makin Island	No Report (2Years)
Auxiliary		Teresa Zimmer

Contributions to AAO Scholarship Fund received:

Total donations \$33,580.00

### **Old Business: Called for any more Old Business.**

Discussion was held about the John W. Finn room in Pensacola and the accountability of Association items there.

### **2018 Convention Committee – Kirk Brado Convention Chairman –**

Announced that next year's Continuum & Convention will be held at the Silver Legacy, Reno, NV (Continuum/ AOLMC) from 23 July thru 26 July 2018, and (Convention) from 26 July thru 31 July. Chapters need to contact Kirk (POC info in the Red Shirt) to set up tables to sell merchandise. Communication is a real key for the success of all the planned activities at this convention. The 2018 convention Site Chairman is John LaMaitre.

### **Call for any more new business from the floor- Dion Edon**

None

### **Election of Officers – Dion Edon**

NOTE: Article V (5) Section 3 states that "A minimum of two officers must be active duty personnel, one of which must be on the Board of Directors." (Requirement met)

The President called for the election of Association Officers. He announced that the offices open for election of the Treasurer, and two seats on the Board of Directors.

The following individuals were nominated for the Offices:

Nominee Treasurer:

Thomas E. Lord, AOCM USN (Ret.) (Incumbent)

Nominees Board of Directors:

Jeffrey P. Sassone Commander, USN (Ret) (Incumbent)

Laura A. Colby AOC, USN (Incumbent)

Election for the office of Treasurer, position held by Thomas E. Lord.

The Nominees are:

Thomas E. Lord

**Thomas E. Lord was re-elected via floor voice vote to serve as Secretary, term to expire 2020.**

Election was held for the Board of Directors position held by Jeffrey P. Sassone.

The Nominees are:

Jeffrey P. Sassone

Todd Pendleton

Laura A. Colby

**Jeffrey Sassone was re-elected via ballot vote to serve as Board of Directors, term to expire 2020.**

## ***HOW TO BORESIGHT***

Election was held for the Board of Directors position held by  
Laura A. Colby.

The nominees are:  
Laura A. Colby  
Todd Pendleton  
Al Dean  
Steve Kashuba

**Laura Colby was re-elected via ballot vote to serve as Board of Directors, term to expire 2020.**

All Installation of Officers will be sworn in after the Awards Banquet Dinner is completed.

### ***Election of Officers up in 2018 – Rob Walecki***

The following offices will open for election/reelection in 2018:

President Currently Dion Edon, Commander, USN (Ret)

Board of Directors (Two):  
Amber L. Roth, AOC, USN  
Angela Sobieski, LTJG USN

NOTE; Nominations for these Offices must be submitted to the Vice-President No Later than 1 April 2018. The Nominee must accept the nomination in Writing and be willing to fulfill the obligation of the office.

### ***Call for any more new business from the floor - Dion Edon***

### ***Closing remarks & announcements – Dion Edon***

The President announced that next year's Continuum/ AOLMC & 42nd Convention will be held at the Silver Legacy, Reno, NV from 23 July thru 31 July 2018.

A moment of silence was held for those who have gone to the Gun Boss in the sky. Let's think about the Marines, Sailors and Soldiers serving in Iraq, Afghanistan.

### ***Rick Garza delivered the closing prayer.***

There being no more input from the floor and no more business to conduct the President closed the 2017 General Business Meeting of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen at 1155, 29 July 2017.

Enclosures 1 thru 3 are on file with the National Secretary.

***Submitted by:***  
***John 'JJ' LaMaitre***  
***Secretary***

***Approved by:***  
***Dion Edon***  
***President***

NAS Quonset Point R.I. VF-72. Grumman Panthers F9F-2. Four 20MM Nose Cannons.

A plane was flown to NAF Charlestown, R I. and towed to the very primitive Boresight Butts. The Ordies went by bus.

A template was required and with six weeks of Algebra, plus basics from the Aircraft Manual one was made.

The aircraft was positioned, the Nose Strut partially depressurized, the aircraft was leveled to zero degrees elevation, the template was positioned 100 feet Down Range in line with the Aircraft Centerline Fixture. The aircraft was then tied down securely. The Gunsight and Guns were adjusted to their spots on the template.

The dirt for the impact area was not very tall. There was the biggest Timber I ever saw in front of the dirt. Two feet square in cross section. I stepped back expecting to see one hole in its proper place on the template for each gun.

There was a tremendous roar! The Nose Strut collapsed, the Timber and template disappeared, hundreds of pounds of dirt filled the air, two hundred projectiles ricocheted over the Butts and headed for the highway.

Painful lessons learned. The aircraft should have been jacked. One round for each gun should have been loaded. Responsibility for those two failures was not spoken to. No one was punished and the other eleven aircraft went to Korea un-Boresighted.

Boresighting was never spoken of again.

*Danger is always present in Ordnance work as you well know. This incident could have turned into an accident, thank God it didn't. My only excuse is that I was the junior E-6 and there were three Chiefs in charge,*

*Best Regards*  
*Frank Fogg, AOCS USN Ret*



VFA-25