

# NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION

“KEEPERS of the DRAGON”© ™

## NNWA Bulletin



June 2025



Our website address is: [www.navynucweps.com](http://www.navynucweps.com)

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Gray Dragon: Robert A. Mowry

## **President's Message**

Good Summer Shipmates,

During the past few months a lot has been happening, finalizing the 2025 reunion, rounding up the NNWA materials, getting the new website up and running thanks to webmaster and his patience. Planning the 2026 reunion in Albuquerque and jumping through hoops trying to get NNWA Memorial to be a real thing during 2026 reunion. Remember folks there are twelve board members in the NNWA who have the knowledge on the NNWA and its functioning, so if you have a question about anything dealing with the NNWA if you go to the website and click on NNWA BOARD you will find a picture of the member and their position, just click on their name below the picture and you will be directed to their email and you can contact them directly. Some members are contacting other members and asking questions and then that person is contacting us to answer those questions, but it would be better to get it straight from the horse's mouth. We have put out in Facebook and in Jan bulletin the costs associated with the Nashville reunion, we know it is higher than usual but that is the beast we must face in order to have a decent reunion for our members. As you can see on the Application form for the reunion, there is basically two ways to register online (preferred choice) or those of you who do it old school and print and mail it in. An important thing to check into when you register is you may want to consider the travel insurance offered. Go to [www.events.afr-reg.com/e/NNWA25](http://www.events.afr-reg.com/e/NNWA25) , Once you are here you will see a link to the Travel Insurance - Protect Your Investment Against the Unexpected! Armed Forces Reunions is pleased to announce that we have teamed with an insurance company to offer travel insurance to all our reunion attendees! This comprehensive travel insurance will cover transportation costs, reunion fees, and even COVID quarantine and medical expenses, at a very reasonable cost. Or the webmaster has included a link on the NNWA webpage.

Remember that if you come across an Obituary for a known shipmate pass this information onto the webmaster so he can publish the information on the webpage. I have put out some feelers for the 2027 reunion which is planned for New Orleans, and as in the 2025 reunion it looks like it too may also be pricey. But we have a little while till we must cross that bridge. Well ladies and gentlemen, it is only a few short months until Nashville, the host John and Bethany have lined up what looks like great entertainment for our trip, there are four tours available, remember you can pick and choose which ones you wish to attend. Please be safe on your travels to and from the reunion and I am sure our chaplain will say a little prayer for us.

The status of the NNWA Memorial scheduled to be installed and dedicated during the 2026 reunion, we have raised a little over \$4300.00 to date which is about a third of the money we need to make this a reality. Any contribution is appreciated. There are two ways to donate, online via GoFundMe, the link is on the NNWA website, or you can send a check directly to me at 1057 Historic Route 66, Santa Rosa, NM 88435, make check payable to NNWA memorial.

Richard E Gurule  
President

## **Vice-President's Message**

Fellow Members,

I am honored to be your Vice President. As a reminder it is the Vice President's responsibility to maintain the SOP/PDL document, keeping it accurate and current. There were no additional inputs to this document at this time.

I've had the pleasure of collaborating with Ron Shirley and the Board to ensure there is a path forward with the creation of our New NNWA Website. Ron has done a wonderful job getting NNWA their new website up and running that brings us into modern times. We now can purchase NNWA ships store items on-line and register and pay for our reunions through this

new website. For simplicity here is the link [NNWA SUPPLY ANNEX](#) ].

This year's NNWA Reunion will be in Nashville, Tennessee. John and I are your Hosts and are working tirelessly to ensure we have a successful fun filled event for you. Here is a link to register and sign-up for tours and the dinner dance. [Armed Forces Reunions - Event Registration](#). At the bottom of this page is listed *Travel Insurance*. I normally do not buy the travel insurance but personally learned the hard way when we had to cancel at the last minute five years ago due to my coming down with COVID just days prior to the reunion and we lost all the money we had paid for that reunion. Travel insurance is on my list of purchases this year.

It's been a wonderful experience being on the Board serving as your Vice President these past 8 years. We've accomplished much. Redoing the SOP and maintaining it seemed natural for me to do since I had been maintaining it prior to being your VP. It is time to pass on the baton. I am stepping down but not stepping away. I have been involved and attending these NNWA reunions since 1990 and will continue to attend as a regular member.

I am looking forward to seeing every one of you this year.

Bethany Gray  
NNWA Vice President

### **Secretary's Message**

Hope that this newsletter finds everyone doing well. I don't know about you, but I am looking forward to the upcoming reunion in Nashville. It looks to me like there is a lot of fun stuff to do in Nashville. John and Bethany have worked hard to put together some great packages. As your new secretary I have managed to get the January News Bulletin out without any complaints, at least any that I heard. Hopefully as I am working on this bulletin, I will get it out on time. All new members should have received

your Membership packages. If you haven't then please call or email me. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Reunion.

If I can be of assistance to anyone just let me know.

Safe Travels!!

Tony Pass  
Secretary, NNWA  
434-250-6578

### **Treasurer's Message**

As treasurer and keeper of the roster, let me welcome our new and reinstated members since the last newsletter. They are:

Charles Cates	Terry Child
Gary Nixon	Lee Watson
Ricky Leischer	Randy Hudson
David Osborn	Frederick Hofmann
James Hayes	Douglas Bock

We currently have 1035 members on the membership roster. 412 members in good standing; 82 life members (spouses of deceased members); 425 past members (members with unpaid dues for three years); 116 members with dues in arrears.

Past members can be reinstated by sending the \$10.00 reinstatement fee plus the \$15.00 annual fee, for a total of \$25.00. They will then be reinstated as a new member.

If you are unsure whether your dues are up to date and you receive your newsletter by mail, look at the date in the upper right corner of the mailing which shows the month and year to which your dues are paid. If you receive your newsletter electronically, log onto our website and check your membership status there in the membership roster. The dues date will be listed in the date column to the right of your name.

The current membership roster is posted on our website. Members who are not on-line can

request a hard copy of the roster by calling, writing or emailing:

Donald Schultz  
573 Beaulieu Loop  
The Villages, FL 32162  
Phone 352-259-1403  
donanddonna@centurylink.net

Please review the roster at your leisure and notify the Treasurer or any board member of any changes in your status.

Currently, we have \$13,271.39 on deposit with Wells Fargo Bank.

When making a payment to the NNWA, please make checks payable to:

NNWA Treasurer, Donald Schultz NNWA Treasurer or Donald Schultz. The bank will not accept checks made out any other way. Please ensure that when sending checks to the NNWA that it is for the correct amount.

Members that will be attending the Reunion in Nashville, remember that your dues must be current.

Donald K. Schultz  
Treasurer and Keeper of the Roster

### **Webmaster Message**

Greetings from your friendly webmaster. It's been about a year since I took over as webmaster and I can honestly say it has been fun, exasperating at times, and at times all-consuming but as a new experience it is gratifying to be able to contribute. I hope this message finds all hale and happy.

We have added new items to our website and retained old ones. I am asking that members go over the site and give me recommendations as to which items might be culled as the site is bulky, over 400 pages, and slow to load and look up information. I understand that everything has a purpose but maybe we can

eliminate some stuff such as old meeting minutes, past reunions, etc. Just asking...

On another front, it was brought to my attention that some members don't realize that we can pay dues online now. PayPal can be accessed by clicking Membership on the main header menu line, enter the PWD for members and click on the Patch...you will be magically transported to the PayPal site where you can choose the type of payment. That's it. Our esteemed Treasurer can then download the funds to our bank account.

That's it for now. Thanks to all who have contributed to our success...

Ron Shirley  
Webmaster

### **Historian's Message**

Historian Message

Greetings all, and happy summer. I hope this Historian message finds y'all in good health and spirits. This time I have selected to look at an overview of the MADM. I've always found it interesting that we worked on it at Yorktown back in the early 80's. A pain in the butt for sure to inspect.

The Medium Atomic Demolition Munition (MADM) was a tactical nuclear weapon developed by the United States during the Cold War, designed for combat engineering purposes such as demolition and battlefield shaping. Here's a concise overview based on available information:

**Purpose and Design:** The MADM was intended to function as a nuclear land mine or for other tactical applications, such as destroying infrastructure like bridges, tunnels, dams, or mountain passes to block or channel enemy forces. It utilized a W45 warhead with a variable explosive yield ranging from 0.5 to 15 kilotons of TNT equivalent (2.1 to 62.8 TJ). The device was relatively portable, weighing approximately 391–

400 pounds (177–181 kg) in its transportation container, making it suitable for emplacement by military engineers or special forces.

**Development and Deployment:** Development began in 1954 with the concept of a lightweight, multi-purpose warhead. The MADM was deployed between 1962 and 1986, with production starting in 1965. It was designated in service as the M167, M172, and M175 Atomic Demolition Charges (ADCs). A key improvement came in 1963 when a watertight case with waterproof cables was introduced to allow emplacement underwater or in backfilled holes, resulting in the W45 Mod 3 variant, which also incorporated a Permissive Action Link (PAL), a five-digit coded switch for enhanced security.

**Operational Use:** The MADM was never used in combat. It was designed to be emplaced by soldiers, either on the ground or underwater, and detonated remotely or via a timer to create physical and radiological obstacles. For example, it could destroy key terrain features to impede enemy movements, such as in strategic locations like the Fulda Gap in Europe during a potential Soviet invasion. The weapon was retired in 1984.

**Components:** The MADM setup included the W45 warhead, a packing container, a code-decoder unit, and a firing unit. It was a boosted,

externally initiated device, enhancing its reliability and versatility.

**Security and Legacy:** Post-Cold War, concerns arose about the security of tactical nuclear weapons, particularly Soviet era "suitcase nukes." While the MADM was a U.S. system, these debates highlighted broader issues with tactical nuclear arsenals. The MADM was phased out as part of broader arms reduction efforts, and no evidence suggests it was ever compromised or used outside testing.

This information draws from multiple sources detailing the MADM's technical specifications, historical context, and strategic role.



Health and happiness to all and God bless  
Tracey McDaniels. Historian

## **Future Reunions**

**See attached document for Reunion 2025 details and registration info**

**The 40<sup>th</sup> reunion of the NNWA in 2025 will be held in:**

Region: Eastern US  
Location: Nashville, TN  
Host: John & Bethany Gray

**The 41<sup>st</sup> reunion of the NNWA in 2026 will be held in:**

Region: Western US  
Location: Albuquerque, NM  
Host: Richard Gurule

**The 42<sup>nd</sup> reunion of the NNWA in 2027 will be held in:**

Region: Central US  
Location: New Orleans, LA  
Host: TBD