

NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION

“KEEPERS of the DRAGON”©™

NNWA Bulletin



June 2023



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NNWA Board Members 2022-2023

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Director	Richard Gurule	575-781-0031	boardmember5@navynucweeps.com
Director	Tracy McDaniels	254-251-5808	boardmember4@navynucweeps.com
Director	Steven Urban	757-449-1836	Boardmember3@navynucweeps.com

Gray Dragon: Frederick Wacha

President's Message

Welcome to another summer bulletin for the "Keepers of the Dragon". Hopefully, all is doing well or the best they can as we are coming up to another great reunion Nov 5-10 in Tucson, AZ. Tyrus George and his wife Diann are this year's host with the Board of Directors aiding them.

The board and the association have lost our Historian, Julien Lindstrom. He did a wonderful job with the tales of various weapons stations and sites, we wish him the best of luck and thank you. If anyone would like to be a board member and take over the job of historian, volunteer.

The board is looking to update our historic, old, and outdated, website with a newer version and come into the computer age. Hopefully this will result in the ability for members to pay their dues and purchase items from the Ships Store online.

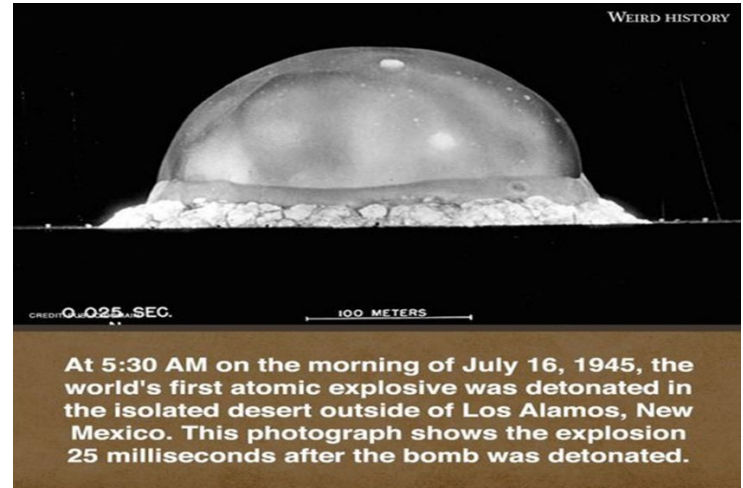
I would like to have three years of reunions in the planning stages and at each reunion in the hospitality room have a sign-up sheet for reunion location ideas. These ideas would plan for the reunion location the third year in the future. Example is this year 2023 is West in Tucson, AZ, next year 2024 in Central say Branson, MO and 2025 East could be Charleston, SC. We would vote on the next West reunion at the ABM on nominations written down in the hospitality room.

This is also a chance for the attending membership to vote and hopefully volunteer to be the host in the city of their choice. The board will always help the host in setting up the reunion in all aspects.

I would like to congratulate the Board of Directors on their continuous and grateful appreciation for their dedication to the NNWA. Without them we could not have the great reunions and association that is currently going on. They are the best and if you would like to be a board member stand up and nominate yourself or someone who would like to join the board and keep this NNWA a great organization.

See you in Tucson,

Kris A Hobbs
NNWA President



Vice-President's Message

Fellow Members,

As a reminder it is the Vice President's responsibility to maintain the SOP/PDL document, keeping it accurate and current. If you have any recommended changes to this document then forward them to a board member for consideration. If approved I will update the SOP/PDL with the change.

The president with the concurrence of the BOD has proposed three changes to the NNWA By-Laws this term. Because of space considerations I published one in the January bulletin, below are the other two.

The first proposed change addresses Honorary Membership in the NNWA. Current wording of Article V, Section 2 under HONORARY MEMBER:

Secretary's Message

“The Board of Directors may bestow to an individual, organization or business that has made a significant contribution...”

Proposed change:

“The Board of Directors may bestow to an individual who has made a significant contribution...”

Justification – The BOD can think of no scenario where a membership would be extended to a business or organization.

The second proposed bylaws change addresses the description of officers duties. The current wording of Article IX, Section 3 DUTIES reads:

“Only the descriptions of A, B, C, D & E below will be retained in the Bylaws, all other descriptions for Chaplain, Master at Arms, Historian and Webmaster will be removed from the Bylaws.”

Proposed change:

“The following are the duty descriptions for the corporation officers that are required in Section 1:”

Justification – The old verbiage is residual from when those officer duties (Chaplain, Master at Arms, Historian and Webmaster) were described in the Bylaws – and continuing to allude to them adds no value and may be confusing. These officers' duties are currently described in the SOP-PDL.

On another note, I am stepping down from the BOD when my term expires at the Tucson reunion. It has been an honor serving this last 6 years and I wish my successor great success. See you all in Tucson at our next NNWA Reunion in November!

Bethany
NNWA Vice President

Fellow Weaponeers,

Our reunion in Tucson, AZ is fast approaching. Tucson is the birthplace of the dark sky movement, and has some incredible stargazing spots right in and near the city. Here are best places for stargazing and seeing the Milky Way in Tucson and the surrounding desert:

The Flandrau Science Center has a 16-inch telescope that is free to use for the public. It is usually open on Thursdays and Saturdays. It's run by volunteer astronomers who can show you some of the more fascinating aspects of our universe. It is located at *1601 E. University Blvd., Tucson, flandrau.org*

The Sky Bar in the heart of Tucson is where you can enjoy the night sky *and* a great slice of pizza. They set up telescopes on their patio every night and have astronomers on hand to answer questions and point out the highlights in the sky. Located at *536 N 4th Ave, Tucson. <https://skybartucson.com/>*

Within 1-hour of Tucson is Saguaro National Park, This national park is named after the large species of cacti that are in the region. There's very little light pollution, and you get a wide-open view of the sky at night. Located at *3693 S. Old Spanish Trail, Tucson, nps.gov*

The University of Arizona has a rich Naval legacy, beginning with Wildcat Sailors and Marines who served in World War I. In World War II a Naval Training School was established at the UofA and trained 10,000 officers, along with another 591 officers in the Naval Aviation School.

The University boasts several historical buildings used for military training, and has many military memorials spanning from 1920 to 2017. In WW2 Bear Down Hall was known as USS Bear Down and used for the Naval Indoctrination School.

This heritage continues today with the Naval ROTC Program, which has commissioned nearly 1,000 officers for the Navy and Marines Corps.

The BOD hopes to see you all in Tucson!
John

Treasurer's Message

As treasurer and keeper of the roster, let me welcome our new and reinstated members since the last newsletter. We have 18 new and reinstated members. They are:

Larry Murdock	Lyle Pearson
David Shirley	Jason Bankston
Philip McHale	Steve Coupland
Ronald Shirley	Robert Harrington
David O'Keefe	Julio Blea
Gary Siemens	Edwin Diaz
Ronald Harris	Robert Curtis
George Diamond	Allen Autry
Kenneth Seering	Peter Fogal

We now have 892 members on the membership roster; 419 members in good standing; 78 life members (spouses of deceased members); 376 past members (members with unpaid dues for three years); 92 members with dues in arrears; and one reciprocal member (NAAV).

Past members can be reinstated by sending the \$10.00 reinstatement fee plus \$15.00 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.

Remember if you are planning on attending the NNWA Reunion in Tucson, Arizona, your dues are required to be current.

The current membership roster is posted on our website. Members not on-line can request a hard copy of the roster by calling or writing:

Donald Schultz
573 Beaulieu Loop
The Villages, FL 32163
Phone: 352-259-1403

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

Currently, we have \$22,696.75 on deposit with Wells Fargo Bank.

When making a payment to the NNWA, please make checks payable to NNWA Treasurer or Donald Schultz NNWA Treasurer or Donald Schultz. The bank will not accept made out any other way. Please ensure that when sending money to the NNWA that it is the correct amount.

Donald K. Schultz
Treasurer and Keeper of the Roster

Historian's Message

Weaponers!

As we no longer have a Historian, I am going to contribute some Spalling and Exudate in the form of Navy Special Weapons trivia.

A joint Army-Navy organization, the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project (AFSWP), was created on 29 January 1947 to handle the military aspects of nuclear weapons by the Secretary of War, Robert P. Patterson and Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal. In February 1947, General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower and Chief of Naval Operations Fleet Admiral Chester W.

Nimitz appointed Major General Leslie R. Groves, the former head of the Manhattan Project, to command the AFSWP, with Rear Admiral William S. "Deak" Parsons and Air Force Major General Roscoe C. Wilson as his deputies.

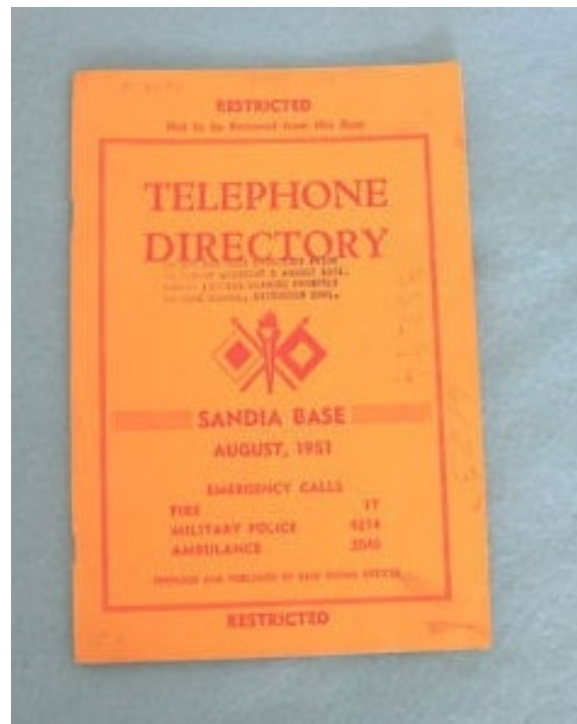
At the AFSWP, Groves approved a 109-man special weapons unit and converted the three lettered companies of the 38th Engineer Battalion into special weapons units. In 1948, they began training a Navy special weapons unit, as the Navy foresaw delivery of nuclear weapons with its new North American AJ Savage bombers from its Midway-class aircraft carriers. This unit became the 471st Naval Special Weapons Unit on its certification in August 1948.



During the late 1940s the Air Force gradually became the major user of nuclear weapons and by the end of 1949, it had twelve assembly units, and another three in training, while the Army had four, and the Navy three, one for each of the three Midway-class carriers.

In an exercise "Operation Eastwind" in November 1948, the 471st Special Weapons Unit flew to Norfolk, Virginia, and practiced bomb assembly on board one of the Midway-class aircraft carriers.

The picture below shows the cover of the 1951 Sandia Base Telephone Directory in Albuquerque, NM that lists the Directorate Special Weapons Development and Logistics, 111th Special Weapons Unit, 144th Special Weapons Unit, 471st Navy Special Weapons Unit, 802nd Navy Special Weapons Unit, 1083 Special Reporting Squadron, 1090th Special Reporting Group, 1233rd Navy Special Weapons Unit, 8452nd AAU Special Weapons Command, and the 8460th AAU Special Weapons Group



The Defense Atomic Support Agency (DASA) replaced the AFSWP on 1 May 1959.

The Special Weapons naming convention carried over into the Forrestal class aircraft carrier design as the nuclear weapons areas were designated as Special Weapons Unit (SWU) and SASS spaces. SASS spaces had special security and maintenance aspects and were alternately known as Special Aircraft Stowage Spaces or Special Ammunition Stowage Spaces. Even when most sailors just referred to them as W-Division, when I was

stationed aboard a CV I always answered the phone with either SWU Forward or Forward SASS, maintaining a connection to our ratings past history.

Additionally, the NNWA was known as the Navy Special Weapons Units Association from its inception in I believe 1984 (correct me on this if I am wrong) to 1994.

John Gray,
WTCS (SW/AW) Ret.

Storekeeper's Message

It has been a rather busy time since the reunion as far as the Storekeeper goes. We had a great sales period at the reunion to the members who attended. Biggest I have had at any reunion. Since then, we have ordered new embroidered patches as they were running low. Also had to order new challenge coins as their numbers were running low also. The replacements are the same but slightly larger.

The Storekeeper has been using a small company in South Carolina at least since Frank Kelly was on the board. They have done the association well and at the reunion I asked what members thought about adding Sweatshirts to the store and it was accepted overwhelmingly.

I started the negotiations with S & S Custom Decals who does the Tee Shirts for \$19 and Polo Shirts which go for \$21 that we had previously offered and we worked out a very good pricing for sweatshirts with two Options. One with just the Logo on the front like the Polo's have which varies in price depending on the size and another option included the Logo on the Front and a Five Color graphic on the back like the Blue Tee Shirts we have also which varies in price depending on the size ordered. I had a rush of orders initially but now that the cooler weather is completed in most places they have died down. It is time for Tee Shirts and Polo's now!

I have now worked out a deal with S & S that will offer Long Sleeve Tee Shirts to the NNWA membership. They will soon be added to the Store Site at a price of \$23 each, Postage Included. The new Shirts will be added to the site by the time you receive this Bulletin.

Check out the NNWA website and see what is available in the Ship's Store! And as always, all items offered in the NNWA Store are available for active members only.

John Hawkins
NNWA Storekeeper

Upcoming Reunion Information

NNWA 38th Annual Reunion
Sheraton Tucson Hotel and Suites
5151 East Grant Road Tucson, Arizona 85712
5-10 NOV 2023

Here is the link to register for our reunion:

<https://www.events.afr-reg.com/e/NNWA2023>

Here is the link to the hotel registration page:

<https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1672416672886&key=GRP>

2023 Reunion Tours

We start off Monday morning by visiting the Rodeo Parade Museum where you will hear about the history of the Carriages and Wagons on an approximately 1 1/2hr tour while enjoying over 100 horse drawn vehicles on display. You will walk into the first airport hanger dating back to 1900 and visit the railroad history display from as far back as 1880 and learn more in the recreated Tucson of 1900.

Then it is off to the Pima Air and Space Museum where there are over 400 Aircraft on 80 acres, with

6 hangers. You can take an electric tram tour that last approximately 45 minutes and covers the outside displays. Lunch will be on your own at the “Flight Grille” on site. We will return to the Hotel at approximately 4PM (1600 hrs).

[Home - Pima Air & Space](#)

Next on Tuesday we will visit the Titan Missile Museum to go underground and back in time. The tour into the silo requires the ability to walk down and return up 55 stairs. There is also a self-guided tour above ground which includes the ability to view the inside of the missile silo from the top. Only snacks and drinks are available, so a box lunch will be provided.

[Home | Titan Missile Museum](#)

From there we will go to the Xavier Mission, a historic Spanish Catholic mission located about 10 miles south of downtown Tucson, on the Tohono O’odham Nation, San Xavier Indian Reservation. After a short visit we will return to the hotel at approximately 3:30 PM (1530hrs)

[San Xavier del Bac Mission - Spanish Missions/Misiones Españolas \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

Wednesday will be a shorter day allowing for personal time in the afternoon. We will depart the hotel at approximately 9AM (0900hrs) for the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area. With its soaring mountain peaks and deep canyons it is one of the most popular recreation sites in southern Arizona for outdoor activity and enjoying nature. There we will take an electric crawler tour to the top of the canyon which lasts approximately 1hr. (roundtrip).

Return to hotel will be at 1PM (1300hrs)

[Tours of Sabino Canyon \(sabinocanyoncrawler.com\)](#)

Remember that the cost of our tour tickets

includes the association’s cost for roundtrip transportation from the hotel.

Looking forward to seeing you all.
Tyrus George

Future Reunions

Future Reunions: location suggestions for the next two years of reunions will be emailed to our membership and voted on using the Survey Monkey tool. Results will be posted on the NNWA website. The BOD nominated the top two cities for a vote in the survey.

The 39th reunion of the NNWA in 2024 will be held in:

Region:	Midwestern US
Location:	Branson, MO or Chicago, IL
Host:	TBD

The 40th reunion of the NNWA in 2025 will be held in:

Region:	Eastern US
Location:	Nashville, TN or Charleston, SC
Host:	TBD

The 41st reunion of the NNWA in 2026 will be held in:

Region:	Western US
Location:	TBD at the Tucson reunion Annual Business Meeting from the cities nominated in the hospitality room.
Host:	TBD

NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION REUNION – NOVEMBER 5-10, 2023
SHERATON TUCSON HOTEL & SUITES – 5151 E GRANT ROAD, TUCSON, AZ 85712 – (520) 323-6262

Listed below are registration and meal costs for the reunion. Send the total amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order, your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$35 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/NNWA2023 (3.5% will be added for credit card charges). All forms and payments must be received by October 6, 2023. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
322 Madison Mews
Norfolk, VA 23510
ATTN: Navy Nuclear Weapons Assn

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Check # _____	Date Received _____
Inputted _____	Nametag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 10/06/23

	Price Per	# of People	Total
TOURS			
Monday, November 6: Rodeo Parade Museum, Pima Air and Space Museum	\$63	#	\$
Tuesday, November 7: Titan Missile Museum, Xavier Mission (Must be able to walk down & return up 55 stairs) Includes Box Lunch – Select entrée(s) below:			
Turkey Coissant <input type="checkbox"/> Italian Sub <input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Veggie Wrap <input type="checkbox"/>	\$94	#	\$
Wednesday, November 8: Sabino Canyon	\$55	#	\$
MEALS			
Sunday, November 5: Meet & Greet (Pizza Party)	\$1	#	\$
Thursday, November 9: Banquet Dinner (Please choose your entrée below)			
Top Sirloin Steak	\$48	#	\$
Pan Seared Salmon	\$48	#	\$
Herb Roasted Chicken	\$48	#	\$
Vegetarian Entrée	\$48	#	\$
REGISTRATION FEE			
MANDATORY PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE Includes Registration Fee and access to hospitality room	\$15		\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.			\$

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR NAMETAG

FIRST _____ LAST _____

SPOUSE (IF ATTENDING) _____

GUEST(S) NAME(S) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____ @ _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

(Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)

Registrations received after the cut-off date will still be accepted on a space available basis, we will contact you immediately with any restrictions. CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-5:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays). Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Cancellations prior to October 6, 2023 will receive a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$15 per person). After October 6, please contact the association directly for refunds.

REGISTER ONLINE AT www.afr-reg.com/NNWA2023