



NEMESIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
P.O BOX 604 Port Hueneme CA 93044-0604

January 2019

President's Corner: Plans for the year ahead

I am looking forward to our upcoming quarterly luncheon on Jan.10, 2019. Recall that last year we had a Christmas luncheon at the Bard Officers Club with the TJ Zeiler Guitar Duo performing Christmas songs for us. This year we decided to just kick back after the holiday rush and have a good visit with you all in the Bard Garden Room. This means you need to be there! The price is only \$20 and you will be bound to see many former co-workers to visit with.

Last Quarter we had the Ventura County Historical Society Museum all to ourselves. We also had a nice long visit and finger food in the inner courtyard of the museum. It was a great gathering. We are thinking about going back to the Commemorative Air Force facility at the Camarillo Airport and the three museums in Santa Paula. Also there is the City Museum in Port Hueneme and the two automotive Museums

in Oxnard! Let us know your interests. We are starting to plan our March 2019 gathering now.

Judy Fragale reports that we have 184 alumni following our Face Book page. Thank you, Judy! If you haven't done it yet, please visit our page and Like us. We are making some progress in finding lost members. Teri Reid is always happy to do a brief story on what you have been doing since retirement.

We will be meeting with NSWC Command Communications early next year to help with the observance of the 56th anniversary of the NSMSES Commissioning. Let us know how you would like to be involved.

Doug McAvoy
Doug_mcavoy@ieee.org

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Quarterly Alumni Luncheon

11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 10
Bard Mansion

**Come share stories, enjoy the buffet, conversation
and our famous raffle!**

**RSVP: Gerry Roberts at 805-642-6504 or message Judy Fragale on the
NEMESIS Alumni Association Facebook page**

Alumni Facebook Update

If you haven't already check out the "NEMESIS Alumni Association" Facebook page. One Hundred and eighty-four members and climbing thanks to the time and efforts of alumni Judy Fragale. New members include:

- Ruth Kudera
- Paula Curtin
- Donna Bedford
- Delia Aldrete
- John Bundy
- Joseph Bulger III
- Earl Carinio
- Willie Yago
- Pobs Bents
- Larry Scott
- Glenda Esnardo Hilliard
- Ann Cormode
- Connie Sams Bryan

NEMESIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

President: Doug McAvoy

Vice President: Karen Brower

Secretary: Kim Foster

Treasurer: Gerry Roberts

Membership: Gary Nuibe

Facebook Director: Judy Fragale

Programs: (open)

Publicity: Teri Reid

Historical: Gerry Roberts

Archive Director: (open)

Newsletter: Teri Reid

Community Action: Gene Fisher

Barbara Johnson

Jim Kirkpatrick

Larry Flickinger

In Memoriam

Gordon Bergh

Len Bruns

Arthur Denny III

Tom Frye

CAPT Donald Gunderson

Hale Hamilton

Louie Morris

Curt Schlegel

Harold Shepherd

Michael Torres

New Alumni Members

Ken Probe

Ricardo Alvarez

Maricela R. Garcia

Robert Park

KEEP YOUR ADDRESS CURRENT

Please be sure to keep your Alumni Association advised of any changes to your mailing address or your e-mail address. You may either e-mail them to Gary Nuibe at his e-mail nuibe70@gmail.com or mail them to: **NEMESIS Alumni Association, PO Box 604, Port Hueneme, CA 93044-6044**

ALUMNI ON THE WEB

Tell others to check out our website where they can find NEMESIS Alumni information. The URL is: <http://www.nemesisalumni.org>. Our webmaster is Lynne Nuibe and she does a terrific job!

RENEWING RETIREE BADGES

Retirees can renew their badges 60 days before the expiration date. You can renew your CAC or dependent ID card in BLDG. 1169. Walk-ins are accepted, but for faster service, please call 805-982-5367 or go online to <https://rapidsappointments.dmdc.osd.mil> to schedule an appointment. PSD Services: CAC Location: Bldg. 1169, NBVC Port Hueneme Phone: (805) 982-5367 Hours: Monday - Friday 0730-1600

Do You Know Or Remember?

By Gerry Roberts

It's hard to believe, but it's the new year again. It's always a good time to appreciate how much we have, and to ponder those memories of years gone by and what NSMSES has achieved by providing excellent engineering and technical support to improve and sustain Fleet SMS readiness.

One of those memories would be when the Station had its nine year birthday celebration as noted in the Interface Bulletin, 7 July 1972. Read and enjoy those early times—and have a Happy New Year.

“Happy Birthday! Station will be nine years old tomorrow.” Nine years ago tomorrow, 36 employees gathered in the courtyard of Bldg. 445 for the commissioning of Naval Ship Missile Systems Engineering Station.

Officially, the NSMSES date of birth is listed as July 1, 1963, but the actual commissioning ceremonies were held a week later.

The occasion will be marked by 35 Plankowners, an association of original employees formed this year. There were 36 members, but Maurice Clifton retired on June 30, earning him the distinction of being “the first man out.”

Among the NSMSES pioneers are those who were aboard even before there was a

NSMSES. Richard Arthur Riebow, personnel management specialist in the Civilian Personnel Department was assigned physically to NSMSES a month prior to the commissioning but officially remained an employee of the Pacific Missile Range, Point Mugu, until January 1966.

“There was never any doubt that the new organization would fly,” Riebow recalls. “The biggest problem was that there was nothing on which to base procedures. We were going into something brand new with no precedent in the Navy system. But the attitude was that it can be done and it will be done. We went into it with wide-open minds.”

From that beginning, “we started with a ceiling of 58, but the body count was not nearly that high,” he said. Riebow has witnessed the growth of NSMSES today to 1,647 employees.

Riebow had transferred from Puget Sound Shipyard to Naval Air Missile Test Center, Point Mugu, in 1948, 10 years before the name was changed to Pacific Missile Test Range and 15 years before a two-man task force arrived at Port Hueneme from Washington, D.C. to establish a new command. The two men were Mark van de Erve, now deputy of NSMSES Point

Defense Systems Department, and Jack Voris, who has retired from Civil Service.

One of the main jobs of the task force was arranging for certain cross services, including personnel, which could be utilized by the new command. Because of similar functions of Point Mugu and NSMSES, Point Mugu was selected as the personnel office and Riebow was assigned the task of setting up personnel procedures.

The arrival of van de Erve and Voris at Port Hueneme was the result of a concept proposed by the Chief of Naval Operations in 1962. The objective was to combine numerous scattered activities of the Surface Missile System.

More specifically, the mission of the Station was, and is, to provide support to the Naval Ordnance Systems Command, the Naval Ship Systems Command and other system commands “in matters relative to research, development, test and evaluation, procurement, production, quality control, logistic support, training and service use aspects of all elements of Navy ship guided missile weapons systems.”

“You can say that we had a very austere beginning,” van de Erve said. “We started with eight engineers, including myself, and
(continued on next page)

12 technicians. We had 75 Western Electric employees under contract.”

Van de Erve came to Port Hueneme from the Naval Weapons Service Office, Washington, D.C.

“Not one of us received a promotion in making the move. It cost \$10 to have each telephone moved, so we had some phones where we didn’t have desks. We moved as few phones as possible. We even traded furniture from the NWSO office in Washington with the Yards and Docks Supply Office, which was disestablished here but had some of its billets moved to Mechanicsburg, PA.

“It was much cheaper to ship furniture from Washington to Mechanicsburg than from Washington to Port Hueneme. We knew we didn’t have much money with which to work and we were determined to make it go as far as possible.”

The Chief of Naval Operations proposal in 1962 led to the appointment of an ad hoc committee by the RAdm Eli T. Reich. The committee selected Port Hueneme as a site for the proposed station because appropriate facilities were in existence at the Seabee base and the adjacent naval complex at Point Mugu, including a deep water harbor, and because of Port Hueneme’s proximity to labor pools of highly skilled engineering, technical and professional people.

Van de Erve recalls that the establishment of the Station was a combination of several fortunate events.

Subsequent to the recommendation of the Port

Hueneme site by the ad hoc committee, it was learned that the Yards and Docks Supply Office at Port Hueneme was being disestablished on June 30, 1963. The three buildings vacated were suited for engineering office space and provided growth potential for several years. These core buildings 442, 444, and 445 which form the nucleus of NSMSES facilities today.

“Many valuable months were gained by acquiring the furniture and hiring 18 administrative employees of the Yards and Docks Supply Office,” said van de Erve.

“We were also fortunate in another respect,” he added. “Adm. Reich wore four hats in Washington at that time - Bureau of Naval Weapons, Bureau of Ships, Bureau of Supplies and Accounts and Bureau of Naval Personnel. This enabled us to enjoy the unique advantage of being able to work across bureau lines as required to coordinate the interfaces so often encountered in complex weapon systems.”

VAdm. Reich is now Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Production Engineering and Material Acquisition).

Both Riebow and van de Erve are quick to point out, however, that the Station was not established without its share of problems.

“One of our biggest non-technical problems was a name,” said van de Erve. “When we recommended a name we had to be careful not to interfere with Naval Missile Center Point Mugu—for instance, we could not use the word ‘center’ and we had to be

careful with the use of the ‘missile.’”

“The major problem was finding enough engineers and technicians,” Riebow stated. “Adding to this problem was the fact that that we were in the middle of the space engineering boom. It caused a real drought in engineering graduates. Young engineers were not interested in government employment.

“The turning point came with the beginning of the Junior Professional Program which enabled us to recruit on college campuses. The program was aimed at hiring inexperienced engineers off campus and offering on-the-job training and some types of academic training.

“Changes occurred so fast during those early days,” said Riebow, “that there was once a joke about time stamping organizational changes. It was only natural, starting an organization from scratch, that we would go through many changes.”

Riebow concluded: “At times, it has been a little disconcerting and frustrating, but the results have been realized, and it is personally satisfying that we have gained the reputation of being a solid organization. It has been self-satisfying to see all the changes, to see the mission we have been given to do to be accomplished. We were looked on to provide help to the fleet and we have provided it.”