

Toooo Weeet.... Attention on Deck.... "Saints... January... Newsletter".....Arriving!

ALSO ON SAINTS WEBSITE

VA-163 SAINTS GRAM



KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE
*Distance and time may separate us
but friendship and memories won't*

Dedicated to those who have invested their lives to the cause of Freedom in America! God Bless our Men and Women who are (or Have) in any way or manner served to protect our Great Nation and the freedom we have.
And God Bless the United States of America.



2012

10th Year Edition
Established Nov 2002
VOL 1 Issue 111

Ed Copher, Editor, "Saints Keeper of the Flame"





ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT

Listen to music as you read the newsletter:

Click Here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgsgUbXCeIA&feature=related> **“When the Saints Go Marching In - US Navy Seventh Fleet Band”**, at the top right of your screen, click the Minimize minus sign (-). It will then go back to the newsletter with the music playing. When finished listening to music, go to your desk top home page, on the bottom tool bar, right click on **When the Saints...**, and select close.

**Bill Tomko's
VA-163 Saints Jeep**
1966.. M715 Kaiser/jeep



Painted the M715 Kaiser/Jeep Olive Drab with regulation Star Markings and the USN VA-163 designations. The M715 is a unique, 1 and a quarter ton weapons /troop carrier (appropriate for an old Aviation Ordnanceman hub?) truck used in Vietnam. They only made them from 1965 to 1968. Straight 6 Typhoon water proof engine and can run underwater with Snorkel unit installed back of driver seat, black out running lights and fold down windshield, amongst other fun and only features the military could devise. Two gear ranges that can pull a house. I put the flags on it for a local Vietnam dedication event on 30 July 2011.

Birds of a feather... Flock Together





Click Here <http://www.flickr.com/photos/va163saints/sets/>

Also on Saints website, [PHOTOS](#) section

Contains 71 Albums (Sets).... 3,992 Photos.... 17,743 views (as of 31 Dec 2011)

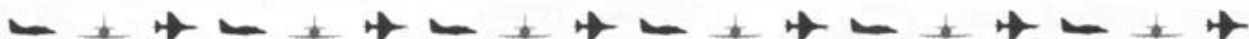


[SAINTS WEB SITE](#)

Saints Internet Web Site www.va163.org (password: *saints4ever*)

4,521 Visitors since Mar 09

*****NOTICE***** *Please sign the **Guestbook***



Saints 2012 Reunion:

Location: Hilton San Diego, Mission Valley

Date: 5-7 Oct 2012

Point of Contact: Scott Mitchell

The reunion will be held in San Diego, CA on the **weekend of 5 - 7 October 2012**. The site of the gathering will be the Hilton San Diego, Mission Valley. Activities will include a 3 hour dinner cruise around San Diego Bay on Friday evening, an escorted tour of the USS Midway Museum Saturday afternoon and a sit-down banquet to celebrate our fellowship at the hotel on Saturday night. A bloc of 30 rooms has been set aside by the hotel at a rate of \$109 per night. Saints will be eligible for this low rate for up to 2 days before the reunion weekend and 2 days afterwards for a total of six nights. We will be able to book rooms 6 months prior to the event beginning in April 2012. The hotel is also providing a complimentary hospitality suite for our use and all Saints will be entitled to a 20% discount in the hotel restaurant and bar. Be on the lookout for an e-mail or letter setting forth the event schedule and associated fees right after the first of the year. A booking code for the bloc of rooms will be provided when the hotel is ready to accept reservations.”



Message from Saint Roger Meyer: 02 Jan 12

Some of the Saints who spent time in the Hanoi Hilton knew Col. Roger Invalson, USAF. He died just after Christmas. I flew to San Antonio to have lumbar back surgery the day before Thanksgiving. It was very minimal-invasive and I am now doing well, with no pain and am able to bend, twist, walk and otherwise move without pain. I saw Dr. Donald Hilton, who is one of the people who developed this amazing technique that allows for a half inch incision and healing of the scars in a week or two.



HR 3612 Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2011: Agent Orange Equity Act



USDR
Legislative Alert



Ask Your Representative to Support HR 3612 Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2011

HR 3612 Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2011

Senate Companion is S 1629 Agent Orange Equity Act

[Take Action!](#)

Please send the following editable message to your Representative --

I strongly urge you to co-sponsor and support HR 3612, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2011, introduced by Rep Gibson.

This legislation would expand the legal presumption of exposure to Agent Orange for veterans who served in the vicinity of Viet Nam.

Before 2002, it didn't matter where a veteran served in the Vietnam War. If disabled due to the exposure to the terrible poisons in the air and waterways, VA would pay disability compensation. In February 2002, Congress decided to 'save our taxpayers money' and ordered VA to implement a 'boots on the ground' policy. After this policy revision, only service members who actually set foot on the ground in Vietnam could get compensated for medical conditions caused by Agent Orange and other herbicides that

were routinely sprayed. The soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines serving in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and the China Sea were exempt from payment even though they were contaminated by these toxins just like their brothers in arms who served on the ground, in Vietnam itself.

Title 38 US Code Section 1116, defines a Viet Nam veteran as "a veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, served in the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975." The Department of Veterans Affairs follows the Congressional mandate of "boots on the ground" which excludes most Navy and Air Force personnel who have Agent Orange related issues but who can not prove "boots on the ground."

HR 3612 would clarify and correct this situation for –

1. Compensation by amending Title 38, Section 1116, Subsections (a)(1) and (f) by inserting '(including the territorial seas of such Republic)' after 'served in the Republic of Vietnam' each place it appears.

2. Health Care by amending Title 38, Section 1710(e)(4) by inserting '(including the territorial seas of such Republic)' after 'served on active duty in the Republic of Vietnam.'

Again, please co-sponsor and actively support HR 3612. Further please use all within your powers of moral suasion to have this legislation included in the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act that will soon be negotiated in Joint Committee.



[Carrier Landings...Ha...Ha](#)

Flying into a Middle East airport, my co-pilot and I reviewed our flight plan for the trip back to the USS Enterprise. We were to pick up a Navy captain, and experience had taught me that even seasoned vets turn white-knuckled during carrier landings. Once the captain was strapped in, I turned around to welcome him aboard.

"Sir," I asked, "will this be your first carrier landing?"

Looking at me with disdain, he opened his inflatable vest to display gold wings above five rows of ribbons. "Son," he said, "I have over 500 carrier landings in jet fighters."

"That's good to hear," my co-pilot said, winking at me, "because this will be our first."



[Chu Lai Viet Nam VMA 225 A4 Skyhawk 1965](#)

Squadronmates and Friends: Even Though this is mostly VMA 225 Video's and Slides, there is a lot of VMA 311 stuff on here. The Below links were mostly filmed at Cherry Point, Iwakuni, Cubi Point, Okinawa, Korea, Bangkok, and Chu Lai, Viet Nam. One of the Video's is a Pilot Recruiting Film that the Marine Corps produced at Cherry Point and Penscola featuring a bunch of the pilots of VMA 225. The Chu Lai stuff is at the beginning. When we got there from Iwakuni off of LST 1165 Washoe County; there wasn't even the SATS airstrip. They put us out on the perimeter to dig holes all day and stay awake all night guarding the airstrip. Lost over 40 lbs. eating an exclusive ration of Hams and Lima Beans. Just love those things. Finally got back to the airstrip in July. Marty

Click on The Links below and you will arrive at another era 45 years ago. Most of the Video's had to be sliced and diced to accommodate You Tube 10 minute restrictions. The video's are linked together with a feature called Play List. VMA 225 was the first squadron to land at the newly constructed SATS airstrip at Chu Lai, Viet Nam June 1, 1965. The Slides document this moment very well. A lot of other events happened while we were there.

Mostly Fixed Wing Stuff And A lot Of It !!! Hot Off The Cutting Room Floor !!! REVISION 2.9.9. July 2010

Guys: Don't Know If You Guys Are Interested. I uploaded to You Tube, Popasmoke, and Skyhawk.org some home movies and slide shows that were filmed in the Western Pacific and Viet Nam 1964-1965.

www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=11553018A28979CF

Carol McGuire Video in 5 Parts

www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=23D204288235E431

Al Nunn's Video in 2 Parts

www.youtube.com/watch?v=12m58k1NDn4

Wings Of A Marine (1965) Marine Pilot Training

www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=82FD5DBFA3DC7F16

Larry Video in 4 Parts

www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=1ACCE4DD0AF94151 Muley Video in 11 Parts
www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=759DCA61D166E510 Carl Video in 6 Parts
www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=2F44A3B1DE4B9390 Avion Video in 3 Parts
www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKSBASOtPJE Slides Part 6
www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDu-2SYpCVg Slides Part
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kzep9xuXLGE Slides Part 7
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayM2Z2_j-xE Slides Part 1
www.youtube.com/watch?v=YW7uSPMEHvI Slides Part 8
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApV5kwmSYXk Slides Part 2
www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHRUM1-b2q8 Slides Part 9
www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWAIgiXC9fs Slides Part 3

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ja1sTaIbNXE Slides Part 4
www.youtube.com/watch?v=036Uzl_vYrM Slides Part 10
www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmObk3jMSxA Slides Part 5
www.popasmoke.com/visions/index.php?page=search_by_poster&poster_name=halpin Popasmoke website
<http://a4skyhawk.org/4e/vma225/vma225.htm> Skyhawk .org VMA 225 On Duty Photo Album
www.youtube.com/watch?v=9t6YiPLZ_8Q Slides Part 11
http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=C22F3856F7372C7C Dick Brown's Chu Lai Video's Dec. 22, 2010
http://www.youtube.com/user/VMA225?feature=mhum#p/f/6/tL182uBS_60 For Valor O'Malley's MOH Ceremony



www.Military.Com : News

Military Report is the most comprehensive military benefits and quality-of-life newsletter for military personnel and retirees. Make sure that you and your colleagues [subscribe](#) for this free update publication. Click on each blue link to go there.



[The Skyhawk Association has 890 members, 14 Saints are members](#)

Ed Copher is the Association SDO for VA-163 Saints

[Skyhawk Association website, VA-163 page:](#)

VA-163 Page, click here: <http://a4skyhawk.org/3e/va163/va163o.htm>

Please join the **Skyhawk Association**. They have a great **Quarterly Magazine**...allot of A-4's and Saints articles. **Only \$30 per year.**

Skyhawk Association Members: Use link to access the Ready Room for; recent additions, aircraft histories, photo galleries, our roster, journals, and more. Need access? Contact the [RR Coordinator](#). A-4s Forever! sdo-coordinator@a4skyhawk.org / bluebolts6364@aol.com

"Skyhawk Association Members: Use the new site address <http://A4skyhawk.org> to get access to the wealth of info available and contact the webmaster for access to the 'Members Only' information at email webmaster@a4skyhawk.org ."



[Saints and Military sites for Hats, Shirts, Pins, Decals, and Models:](#) Submitted by Bill Tomko

Go to Saints Website, **Miscellaneous Section**, for details. Also www.usmedals.com

I have done a ton of Internet research looking for Saints, Oriskany and A-4 related collectibles, pictures, books, videos, models, decals, pins, shirts and hats. I was asked to publish some of the links I had been satisfied with. I am happy to share it here and if you need help finding some thing please feel free to email me at Tomkowj@aol.com



[The real story of Viet Nam:](#) What Really Happened with Viet Nam!

5 Minute video

The truth! Finally!!! But don't expect to see it broadcast or released anywhere... it would embarrass the Congress. Observe which Party controlled the Congress at the time.

Click on: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F67C8yzww_Y&feature=digest

Sad to learn that 285 Vietnam War Veterans die EVERY day – yuk!



[Remembering the Vietnam War:](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XayOuMHLzDM> 7:11 min video

[VIETNAM Veterans, War Casualties.....RIP:](#) Memorial Virtual Wall

First click on a state.....then when it opensan alphabetical order of city-town or village within that state is listed, with names of those lost from that home townthen it should show you a picture of the person or at least his/her bio and medals.....<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>



[Vietnam War Resources, Data Site:](#) *Amazing accumulation*

ALMOST ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT VIETNAM AND A LOT MORE:

This is probably the best search list ever compiled about Vietnam. It would take months to look at everything this site offers.

Click on the link: <http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>



[Statistics about the Vietnam War](#)

Interesting information about statistics and myths associated with the Vietnam War... <http://www.vhfcn.org/stat.html>

[Superb Vietnam Tributes:](#)

A Place Called Vietnam... <http://www.operationmom.org/ToOurParents.html>

<http://patriotfiles.org/VietnamWar.htm>

<http://www.vietnampix.com/>

[A well done moving video by Vietnam vets from Michigan .](#)

This was made by Michigan Vietnam Vets, but it says it all for every Vietnam Vet. Share it with a Vietnam Vet or a family that may have lost a Dad, Brother, Uncle or Son...

I thought they did an excellent job on this. Touching, I suspect in the future this theme will be shown over and over again for each conflict. Thankfully the Gulf war vets were welcomed home with honor.

This is one of the better Vietnam videos made by and for Michigan Vietnam Veterans, but I believe all of you will appreciate this. This story could and is retold by 49 other states and territories as well.

If you know a Vietnam Veteran consider sending this link to them.

http://www.v-prod.com/trailer_vietnam.html

[Life Magazine Vietnam War Photography:](#)

<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Life+Magazine+Vietnam+War+Photography&go=&form=QBIR>



NONE



Web sites of Interest

Oriskany Web Sites:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>USS Oriskany</u> (CVA 34) | 25 Sep 1950 / 20 Sep 1979 | Stricken from Navy List 1989. Sold 9 Sep 1995, but contractor defaulted. Repossessed by the Navy and contract terminated 30 Jul 1997. Sunk off coast of Florida 17 May 2006 for use as artificial reef. Click on the ship name for a complete history. |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

1. USS Oriskany Online: *Great Photos from Dive Shop Pensacola*: www.ussoriskanyonline.com/ www.mbtdivers.com
2. The best pictures of the reefing. *Going to her final resting place*: <http://www.irishmansoftware.com/Oriskany.htm>
3. Two Memorial Video's of the Oriskany: <http://www.ussoriskanyonline.com/>
4. Oriskany Reunion Association: www.ussoriskany.com
5. Video of Big O going under: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1401279762745553286&q=oriskany>
6. Patriot Media "The Mighty O": <http://patriotmediainc.com/>
7. Remembering Oriskany Guest Book: <http://www.rememberingoriskany.bravepages.com/guestbook2.html>
8. Oriskany Dive Video & Photos: http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany_photos.htm
9. Diving Oriskany Reef, 25 March 2007: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l-wYnlBZis>
10. Oriskany Cruise Books on CD's: <http://glewis.us/obooks.htm>
11. Oriskany 1967 Vietnam Combat Cruise, DVD sale: http://www.cv41.org/GRS/uss_oriskany_67/index.html
12. Oriskany Information and History/Pictures: <http://www.pnj.com/newsfiles/oriskany/index.shtml>
13. Oriskany model: <http://www.motionmodels.com/ships/cv/>
14. USS Oriskany Photo Galleries: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/7437991@N08/galleries/72157622440145584>
15. USS Oriskany History 1972: <http://www.ussoriskany.com/id17.html>
16. USS Oriskany digital Cruise Book Project (<http://glewis.us/obooks.htm>)
17. Oriskany 1970...Flight Ops: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXaKTJIVxHM&feature=email> 10 min
18. **Oriskany Memorial Dive for Saint Ralph Bisz**: *Saints logo patch placed on Oriskany, 20 Sept 2010*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqNETwJvF3A> 7:13 min video
19. **Oriskany Dive to put Saint Larry Spear's ashes to rest on Oriskany**: 03 Dec 2010
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBnOkCrDnQo> 7:25 min video

A-4 Skyhawks:

<http://a4skyhawk.org/>

A new Saints website site: By Saint Dennis Lund

<http://www.va-163saints.com/>

When the Saints Go Marching In - US Navy Seventh Fleet Band

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgsgUbXCeIA&feature=related>

We Remember: WWII flight video 6:21 min
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUIoB8sGyYM&feature=youtu.be>

C-130 Angel Flight: Return of Hero's from war
Great Song & Pictures
Angel Flight (Radio Tower Remix) - w/ Lyrics
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70lkj1hZDnw&feature=related> 04:08 min



Douglas A-4 Skyhawk: 6:10 min video
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAplCSSZqAs&feature=related>

Vietnam War Documentary Trailer:
http://www.v-prod.com/trailer_vietnam.html

Remembering the Brave:
<http://www.jensensutta.com/slideshows/RTB/>

Yokosuka, Japan website: submitted by Dennis Lund
Check out this new web site I found. It is at <http://www.yokosukasailor.com>. The web site is on the order of Facebook only much, much better. It is free, has a ton of pics, and information to share. It is interactive with member participation, emailing, etc. Let all the Saints and other friends of yours know about it. I love it!!

Lemoore Naval Air Station Operations Area Map:
If you want to look over NAS Lemoore, Go to the first URL line below, then click on it. This will take you NS Lemoore (Reeves Field), CA Flight Plan home page. Here you will want to click on [Click here for full scale & interactive Sectional view of KNLC](#).
Once you to this interactive map, you can zoom in with the mouse click on + or - (in left upper corner) all around the base at Lemoore, all of operations area. While you are snooping around the base looking at all the hangars, FA/18 Hornets and Super Hornets, zoom and "grab the screen" with the pointer (white glove hand) and move south down to the Administration and Housing Area to continue snooping.
<http://www.fltplan.com/AirportInformation/KNLC.htm>

http://wh94.fltplan.com/route/index.cfm?AirportSingle=t&mapttype=blank&airport_id=KNLC&mapservicetype=sectionals_esri&MapHeight=99pc&MapWidth=99pc

A-4 Skyhawk Photo Galleries on Flickr.com website: Some of our Saints photos in there!!!
www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623353551691/
www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623815542532/
www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623727604239/
www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854694748/
www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854748712/

Virtual Aircraft Encyclopedia:
<http://www.aviastar.org/index2.html>

McDonnell-Douglas A-4 Skyhawk: http://www.aviastar.org/air/usa/mcdonnel_sky.php

RAO BULLETIN Update, 01 JAN 2012

Read the **Articles** go to the web site at: http://post_119_gulfport_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html

2012 VA Benefits Edition:

In the Link and in cover as well, you'll find it broken down in the sections listed for easier reading and researching, also with link to PDF as well as one in Spanish, or look through the document reader embedded.

[VA Benefits 2012 Edition](#)

Captured: A Look Back at the Vietnam War on the 35th Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon

141 Photos. Good history of the war in photos.

Click here: <http://blogs.denverpost.com/captured/2010/04/30/captured-a-look-back-at-the-vietnam-war-on-the-35th-anniversary-of-the-fall-of-saigon-2/>

Music of the Vietnam War:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnnLrmboOYE&feature=related> 8:36 min video

1960's: *Great photos, music, and facts.*

This is the one of the best presentations of the sixties. It is very well done. Just click on the link and sit back and enjoy the memories.

Click here: <http://objflicks.com/TakeMeBackToTheSixties.htm>

1950 - 1982 Jukebox: *This is really cool. Have fun with it.....!!*

Click here: <http://www.tropicalglen.com/>

What We Drove in the 50's & 60's:

<http://cruzintheavenue.com/CarsWeDrove.htm>

Music from 60's & 70's:

Nine different play lists with about 100 songs on each list from 60's & 70's

<http://chu65nang67.us/nam/vietnam.html>



SAINTS ONBOARD (260 Names)

Revised 31 DEC 2011

New or changed address:

Denny Earl: (changed) dukendi@coz.net

Please advise if you have any additions or corrections.

**Complete Roster can be found on the Saints website – www.va163.org
(password, *saints4ever*)**

