

Toooo Weeet... Attention on Deck...“Saints...April 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.



2018

16th Year Edition

Established Nov 2002

VOL 1 Issue 185



Standing the Watch



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

Saints Tradition

An old Saints tradition is that friends who have not seen or heard from each other for long periods of time never question their friendship. These friendships resume at the same time they left off regardless of distance and time between them. We call these friends "Family".

Saints Motto

"Fight by Night or Day, Land or Sea"



A-4 Skyhawk
VA-163
Saints4ever

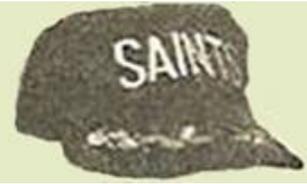


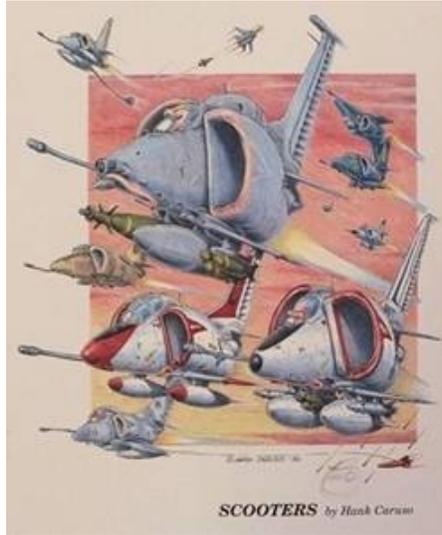
ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_A-4_Skyhawk







Birds of a feather... Flock Together



VA-163 "Saints"



[Click Here](#)

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

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

Contains 80 Albums (Sets)... 4,832 Photos

View Counts as of 01 April 2018

Photos

795,496 views

Albums

30,969 views

Total

853,270 views



www.Flickr.com charges \$24.95 per year to keep the [SAINTS Photo Albums](#) on their web site.

****PAID the \$24.95 annual Flickr photo site fee on 15 Nov 2017****



*****SAINTS WEB SITE*****

THE WEBSITE HAS THE LATEST NEWSLETTERS AND ROSTER

Saints website www.va163.org (password: *Saints4ever* (capital S))

14,301 Visitors since Mar 09

[History](#), [Latest Info](#), [Photos](#), [In Memoriam](#), [Miscellaneous](#), [Newsletters](#), [Links](#), [Recall Roster](#)

*****Total cost for the Saints Website is \$293.97 per year**

New Fee: Webmaster Maintenance Fee. \$120 p/year (paid Jan 2018)

*****Paid 30 Jan 2018: the annual webmaster fee of \$120*****

***** Paid 22 Feb 2018: Domain Registration \$26.90 for 2 years, next due 31 Mar 20**

***** Paid 31 Mar 2018: Domain Protection \$4.50**

Jim Houston, **Webmaster** for www.VA163.org began charging for maintaining the Saints website. He is only asking \$10 a month (\$120 p/year).

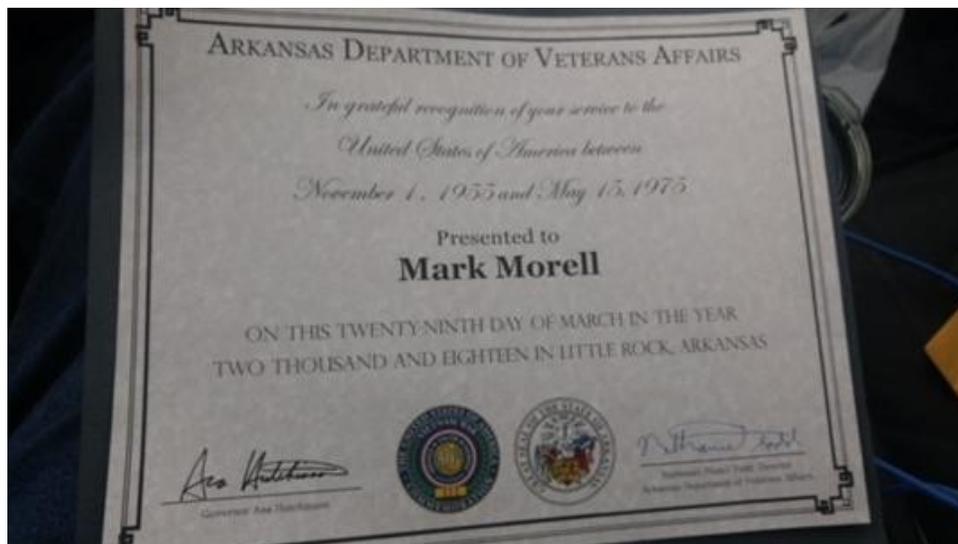
I am asking for donations to continue to utilize Jim's services.

Ed Copher

242 Toye Blvd

Canyon Lake, TX 78133

Mike Morell Vietnam Award:



Agent Orange Update: Submitted by Hubert Cook

A plan to extend disability benefits to nearly 100,000 war veterans potentially exposed to Agent Orange on ships off the Vietnam coastline were sidelined 31 OCT over the ongoing dispute about how to pay for it. The failure again raises problematic questions for lawmakers about how to balance federal costs with government responsibilities. Critics noted that on the same day lawmakers offered a massive tax reform measure expected to cost \$5.8 trillion over 10 years, they could not find a way to cover a small fraction of that total to help sick veterans. “We’re absolutely appalled at Congress’ inability to reach bipartisan support to take care of it’s blue water veterans,” said Mike Little, director of legislative affairs at the Association of the United States Navy.

At issue is a change in VA policy 15 years ago that excluded veterans serving on ships off the coast of Vietnam — known as “blue water Navy veterans” — from being included in a class of former service members presumed to be exposed to Agent Orange. Troops who served on the ground in Vietnam or patrolled inland rivers are given special status, simplifying the process to receive disability benefits. But the blue water veterans still must prove they were directly exposed to Agent Orange for their illnesses to be labeled as service-connected. In many cases, collecting scientific evidence of the presence of the chemical on or near the ships is impossible, given the decades that have passed.

A House bill to restore that status to the Vietnam War sailors has 317 co-sponsors, more than enough to advance the legislation if it reaches the House floor. But leaders on the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee haven’t moved the legislation there because of disagreements over how to pay for the change — expected to total about \$1.1 billion over 10 years.



[Jan 2018 Popular Mechanics Oriskany and Forrestal fires w/ John McCain:](#)

Submitted by Floyd Oakes

Short, interesting and flawed article.



[USS Lexington Museum Corpus Christi:](#) March 2018





Vietnam – Why were so many Pilots shot down? Submitted by Ed Chadwick

“The Secret War and Other Conflicts”

(Published 2014 by GENERAL PETE PIOTROWSKI ISBN 978-1-4931-6187-4 (Hardcover)) Following is “Nearly twenty years later, former Secretary of State Dean Rusk being interviewed by Peter Arnett on a CBC documentary called, “The Ten Thousand Day War”. Mr Arnett asked, “It has been rumored that the United States provided the North Vietnamese government the names of the targets that would be bombed the following day. Is there any truth to that allegation?”

To everyone’s astonishment and absolute disgust, the former Secretary responded, “Yes. We didn’t want to harm the North Vietnamese people, so we passed the targets to the Swiss embassy in Washington with instructions to pass them to the NVN government through their embassy in Hanoi.” As we watched in horror, Secretary Rusk went on to say, “All we wanted to do is demonstrate to the North Vietnamese leadership that we could strike targets at will, but we didn’t want to kill innocent people. By giving the North Vietnamese advanced warning of the targets to be attacked, we thought they would tell the workers to stay home.” No wonder all the targets were so heavily defended day after day! The NVN obviously moved as many guns as they could overnight to better defend each target they knew was going to be attacked. Clearly, many brave American Air Force and Navy fliers died or spent years in NVN prison camps as a direct result of being intentionally betrayed by Secretary Rusk and Secretary McNamara, and perhaps, President Johnson himself. I cannot think of a more duplicitous and treacherous act of American government officials. Dean Rusk served as Secretary of State from January 21, 1961, through to January 20, 1969, under President John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson.

Part 2: Most restrictions were lifted by the summer of 1967, however, the White House selected targets from a comprehensive list provided by commanders in the action. Our air group conducted Alpha strikes on North Vietnamese airfields Kep and Phuc Yen that summer and fall. The air defenses were fierce at both targets. I went to each [I think] twice and there were no aircraft destroyed on the ground then or any other of our missions, regardless of claims made in McCain's book. The Vietnamese were either forewarned or saw us coming on their radars. We cratered the runways and one of our pilots blew a hole in the main hanger at Phuc Yen with a Walleye. The prohibition of bombing ships was never lifted and all the advanced nations were supplying the enemy. We sunk the dredges that maintained the waterway to Haiphong, so only one ship at a time could get into the docks. There were always several ships waiting their turn at the north end of the Tonkin Gulf. I got in trouble for getting a Canadian ship hit by AA from an island, which formerly supported their PT boats. I flew between the island and the ships at anchor. The Chinese were shooting from their ships and the island guns were also trying to hit me. I guessed the right altitude and airspeed and a Canadian freighter got racked with fire from the island. After the second incident I was reprimanded by our Admiral. He told me the next time that happened, not to land on his ship. One black night I mistakenly bombed a Chinese freighter, which nearly cost me 20 years in Leavenworth. Due to my past exploits no one seemed to believe it was a mistake. The Admiral and the ship's captain talked on the land line to the President, while my skipper and I stood at attention. Two times I heard my name paired with "20 years Leavenworth". That night I decided not to make the military a carrier. The reason I got off the hook was that there was no reporter aboard the ship that night, so the United States denied the Chinese allegation. I served a total of 5 years on

active duty and almost one year in the reserves. I loved the flying, but had problems with authority. Ed



C-Rats and P-38 opener:



SCUTTLEBUTT

Latest was heard at the "Gedunk"

The Smoking Lamp is out due to JP-5 Jet Fuel in the drinking water.

Cold Saltwater showers "only" due to no fresh water.

Remember: The soap will not rinse off in cold saltwater shower....



The Skyhawk Association has 797 members, 14 Saints are members

Ed Copher is the Association SDO for VA-163 Saints and VA-125

Skyhawk Association Links:

Association main page: <http://a4skyhawk.info/>

VA-163 page: <http://a4skyhawk.info/article-unit/va163>

Please join the Skyhawk Association. A great Quarterly Magazine, allot of A-4's and Saints articles.

Only \$30 per year.

Skyhawk Association Digital Journal: Feb 2017

This year's digital edition can be found at: <http://a4skyhawk.info/article-journal-public/skyhawk-association-journal-public-page1>

[Skyhawk Association Journal - THE A-4ever](#)

a4skyhawk.info

Our "Members Only" Journal is published twice yearly and contains excellent textual and color image examples of the historical and current activities of one of the ...



Agent Orange Troop



[Vietnam War Resources:](#)



Below is a link to a web site about the war in Viet Nam. Whether you are a Viet Nam veteran or not, you may find this web site very interesting because it contains an absolutely enormous amount of information about the war. <http://www.cc.gatech.edu/~tpilsch/Vietnam.html>



[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>

[Life Magazine Vietnam War Photography:](#)

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



[Newsletters are on Saints Website:](#)

Go to Saints Website, click on [Newsletters](#).

To view the Roster: click on [Roster](#), then [Complete Roster](#), password: **Saints4ever** (capital S)



****Websites of Interest****

Oriskany Web Sites:

USS Oriskany (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. Great Oriskany Photos from Dive Shop Pensacola: www.mbtdivers.com
2. The best pictures of the reefing. Going to her final resting place: <http://www.irishmansoftware.com/Oriskany.htm>
3. Oriskany Reunion Association: www.ussoriskany.com
4. Video of Big O going under: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1401279762745553286&q=oriskany>
5. Patriot Media "The Mighty O": <http://patriotmediainc.com/>
6. Oriskany Dive Video & Photos: http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany_photos.htm
7. Diving Oriskany Reef, 25 March 2007: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l-wYnIBZis>
8. Oriskany Cruise Books on CD's: 1. <http://glewis.us/obooks.htm> 2. <http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html>
3. <http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html>
9. Oriskany 1967 Vietnam Combat Cruise, DVD sale: http://www.cv41.org/GRS/uss_oriskany_67/index.html
10. Oriskany Information and History/Pictures: <http://www.pnj.com/newsfiles/oriskany/index.shtml>
11. Oriskany model: <http://www.motionmodels.com/ships/cv/>
12. USS Oriskany Photo Galleries: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/7437991@N08/galleries/72157622440145584>
13. USS Oriskany History 1972: <http://www.ussoriskany.com/id17.html>
14. [USS Oriskany digital Cruise Book Project](http://glewis.us/obooks.htm) (<http://glewis.us/obooks.htm>)
15. Oriskany 1970...Flight Ops: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXaKTJIVxHM&feature=email> 10 min
16. [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
17. [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
18. [Saints Video on YouTube](#): *Dennis Lund video filmed on the Oriskany including the Oriskany fire!*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJ5ykZjRaIM>
19. [USS Hancock](#): Click here: [Scotty Moore - The USS Hancock \("Hannah"\)](#)

20. [Tour of Duty photo site](#): 3000 photos, some Saints <https://www.flickr.com/groups/435090@N22/>

21. [USS Oriskany Fire & Sinking](#): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS2uky8K5Jk> 42 min video

22. [1963 TOUR OF THE USS Oriskany](#): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e92t7kgV_Ws &
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9Mh975VCII>

23. [O Boat Sinking Video](#): <http://trib.al/t69QQT4>



[Aircraft for Sale:](#)

Thought you might like this aircraft for sale. Go to Inventory and Check out the war birds for sale as well.

<http://www.platinumfighters.com/lockheed12n18130>



[Going to the boat:](#) First time carrier landings

Click on blue link: [GOING TO THE BOAT](#)



[Pitching Deck:](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/bC2XIGMI2k>



[Navy Commercial:](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/USNavyAircraftCarriers/videos/10156139765898669/>



[Article about Stockdale:](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/Tailhook.Association/posts/1613398878698053>



[Vietnam Wall](#)--THIS IS AMAZING!

This is really sobering. First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city where you went to high school and look at the names. Click on the name and it will give details of the person's death, a picture or at least their bio and medals.

This really is an amazing web site. Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it.

I hope that everyone who receives this appreciates what those who served in Vietnam sacrificed for our country. Pass the link on to others, as many knew wonderful people whose names are listed.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

[USS Nimitz during bad weather](#)

Why Naval Aviators are the best trained pilots in the world!

You can turn on your sound and go full screen .

These videos show the difference between Naval Aviation and any other kind. The links below are two videos about F-18 carrier operations aboard the USS Nimitz during weather that causes a severely pitching deck, which you can see in the videos. It's more dangerous than most combat missions and the tension in the pilots and crew is very apparent.

Watch Part 1 first, then Part 2 . Great videos.

Part One

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=4gGMI8d3vLs < http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=4gGMI8d3vLs

Part Two

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=S0yj70QbBzg < http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?

[Vietnam Aircraft Losses:](#)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_aircraft_losses_of_the_Vietnam_War

[Vietnam Song:](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/TheVeteransSite/posts/1724893187572582>

[Blue Angels with A-4's:](#)

<http://www.avgeekery.com/watch-blue-angels-reborn-flew-4f-skyhawk/>

How A-4's Ruled the Sky's:

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/how-the-4-skyhawk-ruled-the-skies-21967>

Skyhawk Videos:

This is for the A4 Skyhawk enthusiast .Got this from my Nephew in law. I love to see those Bombs and Rockets go off "ON TARGET" and successfully complete the mission. I took many Skilled and brave Pilots and many hard working and skilled crew to do these 12 to 16 hours a day. Hard to believe I used to load the Ordinance so many, many years ago, where did all those muscles go?

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IQymtxjt24

www.youtu.be/1mfdRvzUVtM

www.youtube.com/watch?v=WgwEWSjzwz8

VA-164 Video: Miss Jessie and Ghost Rider 401

Dick Perry of the O-boat's VA-164 and the saga of Miss Jessie.

<https://www.facebook.com/DosEckes-Productions-362988187722/?pnref=story>

The Blues Flying the A-4

Oh the good old days. Scooter drivers prepare to shed a tear.....

The best Blue Angel show of all time. A-4's. Here is a video of them from the '70's. Bear Smith and Skip Umsted are the last two guys walking towards the camera before they get to their planes. They both died later in aircraft accidents. The crazy solo is Denny Sapp. Best show for the spectators because it was close to show center. Always in sight.
Tightest diamond formation ever.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wk3XSV6H6w0>

Resource Book with details of all aircraft loss on every cruise: Submitted by Ed Chadwick

Here is a site where books by Rene J. Francillon can be purchased. His "**Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club**" has a section that shows every carrier deployment during the Vietnam. It details each aircraft loss on every cruise, including the date, aircraft type, aircraft identification, squadron, pilots name / rank and well as whether the pilot was KIA, recovered or made a POW. I look at the book when memory fails me. It's a great resource.

<https://www.amazon.com/Ren%C3%A9-J.-Francillon/e/B001HCWSDM>

[Detail Thesis on CAG 16 1965-1967](#)

Commander Fey, who asked my permission to use a Photo I took of Commander Stockdale's Saints A-4 from 1965. He said he did a thesis on CAG 16 and a Manifest. Many of the Saints including Skipper's Compton and Foster were interviewed as well as Mildman and others. It spans 1965 thru 1967. I found it very interesting with insight I never was aware of, worth a read. WE WERE THERE!!! Thanks Bill Tomko

CAG 16 losses and info: https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=Peter+Fey+rolling+Thunder

[VN 40 years ago...75 pictures](#)

<http://www.vintag.es/2015/04/vietnam-war-40-years-ago-75-beathtaking.html>

[Legends of the Ho Chi Minh Trail](#)

<http://www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-Minh-trail-Laos/>

There are many links to the archive by date as well as to specific articles like this one about an F-4 shootdown:
<http://www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-minh-trail-shot-down-plane/>

This is the homepage:
www.laosgpsmap.com

Ho Chi Minh Trail Tours:
www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-minh-trail-tours/

[Vietnam War Stories:](#)

<http://cherrieswriter.wordpress.com/category/the-vietnam-war-story/>

Tags : [book sites](#), [books war](#), [cherry soldier](#), [combat](#), [Combat Infantry](#), [digital books](#), [firefighths](#), [Grunts](#), [Hispanic](#), [Historical fiction](#), [jungle warfare](#), [Military](#), [novels](#), [The vietnam war](#), [The Vietnam war story](#), [Veteran](#), [Vietnam blog pages](#), [Vietnam book](#), [Vietnam conflict](#), [Vietnam veteran](#), [war books](#), [war stor](#), [Wars and Conflicts](#)

[Number of Vietnam Vets Still Alive:](#)

This has a lot of the statistics on Vietnam Vets.....



1956 Navy All Hands Meeting:

Thought you might find this 1956 All Hands..... interesting.
http://www.navy.mil/ah_online/archpdf/ah195603.pdf



A good day to revisit the Virtual Wall:

Vietnam Wall

First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city and the names will appear. Then click on their names. It should show you a picture of the person, or at least their bio and medals. This really is an amazing web site. Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it. I hope that everyone who receives this appreciates what those who served in Vietnam sacrificed for our country. The link below is a virtual wall of all those lost during the Vietnam War with the names, bio's and other information on our lost heroes. Those who remember that time frame, or perhaps lost friends or family can look them up on this site.
<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>



Do you remember these?

This will bring back memories

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=puGQsQux80k



Vietnam Photos:

<http://news.yahoo.com/photos/a-soldier-s-story-never-before-seen-images-of-vietnam-war-slideshow/vietnam-photo--599932980.html?format=embed#mediaphotosbobaspotlightgallery=%252Flightbox%252Fa-soldier-s-story-never-before-seen-images-of-vietnam-war-slideshow%252Fvietnam-photo--599932096.html>



Military Video ~ Ending is Fabulous

Please take the time to view this and watch till the end. I was so very touched. And once again.....

Thank you to ALL who have served our country! I live in a free nation because of your sacrifice! God Bless you! Because of the warriors of the past, the present, and the future, we Americans can walk tall.
For those of you of may not know, or have forgotten, Lt. Col. Oliver North was wounded in Vietnam many times and never left the men he commanded. I am now passing this on for you to watch. It's not just enjoyable, it is riveting! When you are done pass it on too, I think it's

important ... don't you?

If you are a veteran, I say thank you, for everything! You are SO special! Take the time for this one. You won't be disappointed ... the end is a kicker.

<http://www.nragive.com/ringoffreedom/index.html>

[NAS Lemoore April 1968:](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sRIO4kvjVE&feature=youtu.be>

[Photos/History of Vietnam:](#)

Excellent Viet Nam Pictorial History

From the Denver Post.

Click here: [VietamPictorialHistory](#)

[Vietnam War - Source list](#)

I am passing this along because it is probably the best search list ever compiled about the Vietnam War. This simply has to be shared with anyone who ever served in Vietnam. It would take months (*more like years*) to look at everything this site offers:

<http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>

[A-4 Skyhawks:](#)

<http://a4skyhawk.org/>

[When the Saints Go Marching In - US Navy Seventh Fleet Band](#)

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



VA Benefits Blog on Facebook:

VA Benefit Blog

https://www.facebook.com/vabenefitblog?sk=app_129722457108553#!/vabenefitblog?sk=wall



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



A-4 Skyhawk Photo Galleries on Flickr.com website: Some of our Saints photos are 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/



RAO BULLETIN Update, 01 April to read the **Articles** go to the web site at: http://post_119_gulfport_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html



SAINTS ONBOARD (260 Names)

“Muster Call”

Revised 01 April 2018

New or changed address:

Please advise if you have any additions or corrections.

Complete Muster Call can be found on the Saints website – www.va163.org (password, *Saints4ever*) capital S

