



The Sumner Sentinel ©

January - February 2017
Volume IV Number 1

Remembering Operation Sea Dragon

There probably will be a lot of bull sessions at this year's reunion, especially in regards to Operation Sea Dragon as it will mark the 50th anniversary of participation in it by the USS Allen M. Sumner.

Operation Sea Dragon occurred during the Vietnam War and was a series of American-led naval operations beginning in 1966 to interdict sea lines of communications and supply going south from North Vietnam to South Vietnam, and to destroy land targets with naval gunfire, as well as to give CIA officers in the area who had cited the targets room to withdraw to extraction zones.

The primary purpose of Sea Dragon forces was the interception and destruction of waterborne logistic craft (WBLC), which ranged in size from large self-propelled barges down to small junks and sampans.

United States Navy advisers were assigned to the South Vietnamese Navy (VNN) and American minesweepers assisted South Vietnamese Navy ships in carrying out patrols near the Demilitarized Zone.

Specially modified attack helicopters were used to pursue North Vietnamese ships and disable them, leaving the ships to be boarded by American and South Vietnamese naval commandos.

In May (1967), Sea Dragon combatants temporarily withdrew south to join Task Unit 70.8.9 in Operation Beau Charger, the largest concentration of U.S. surface ships since the Korean War.

During the operation, Canberra combined forces with the light guided-missile cruisers Providence and St. Paul and five destroyers (USS Allen M. Sumner (DD-692), USS Fechteler (DD-870), USS Edson (DD-946), USS Joseph Strauss (DDG-16) and HMAS Hobart (D-39)) to support Marine amphibious landings and ground sweeps in the



southern part of the DMZ.

During the assault, the ships suppressed Communist artillery in southern North Vietnam and in the upper half of the DMZ.

July 1967 saw a marked decrease in coastal traffic. As floating targets declined, Sea Dragon concentrated on those ashore, engaging 518 stationary targets nearly twice the monthly average.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

My Fellow Shipmates,

Hope this greeting finds everyone doing well. Seems like just last month we were in Cleveland and here it's only 3 1/2 months until May, in Mayport!



Frank DiBello

Dave and Sue Robson - our Mayport hosts - have been doing an excellent job of making arrangements for our 2017 Reunion; setting up the hotel facilities, making the banquet arrangements, ordering food and snacks for the hospitality room, setting up transportation and gathering information on things to do and places to see in the area.

Bravo Zulu to Dave and Sue!

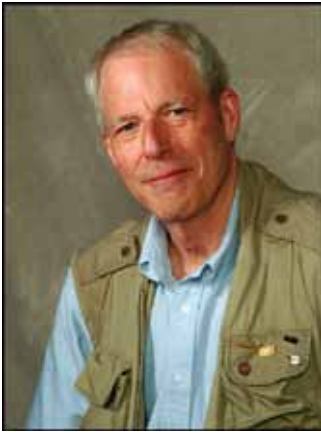
As per the website, please be advised to make your reservations ASAP, due to the scarcity of rooms in May, 2017, because of the big golf tournament taking place in Jacksonville.

It doesn't cost you anything to reserve the room, and if in the event you cannot attend, you can cancel your reservations within 48 hours of your check-in time, with no charge. If you wait too long to reserve your room, there WILL NOT be one available!

Please remember all of our shipmates on the Binnacle List and keep them in your prayers.

Connie and I are looking forward to seeing everybody in May, in Mayport!





By Don Hayden TM3 (1961-62)

Everyone remembers nine eleven, but the editor more recently recalls one eleven.

1-11-17 that is.

That's the day he came close to either being dead or broccoli.

And all because his wife had quit her job the previous month and was at home instead of being at work!

I had just had a bowl of cereal - my normal breakfast since a couple of heart attacks - and went into his den remarking that I was not feeling too well.

I sat down in a recliner and about 10 minutes later his wife Jane asked "Are you okay?"

Upon not hearing an answer she came into the den and said "I need words."

Upon hearing none, she quickly recognized signs of a stroke and immediately called 911.

About 10 minutes later fire trucks arrived and began hooking me up to IVs.

I don't remember if I went to the hospital's emergency room by ambulance or the fire truck, but less than 30 minutes later I was there being hooked up to more apparatus and being asked questions.

Apparently I was having a hard time answering them and made sounds like gibberish.

Eventually I was transferred to ICU (Intensive Care Unit) and that would be my home for the

next 10 days while stroke doctors struggled to find the right combination and frequency of drugs to keep me alive and make me well.

The problem was that my left carotid artery was 100 percent blocked and blood flow had to be routed to the brain differently by increasing pressure.

The goal was to get me off the various IVs and onto pills. They later admitted they were puzzled and "scratched their heads" to

find aforementioned right combination.

Eventually I was transferred to the stroke floor and was seen daily by doctors specializing in this field.

I spend the next 11 days on this floor before finally being transferred to rehab and home.

Receiving Hard Copies of the Sumner Sentinel

Note to shipmates, wives and widows:

Following this issue, hard copies of the Sumner Sentinel will only be mailed to those with an "L" designation on their address label (unless they have an E-Mail address) or to those members whose dues are current and who have no E-Mail address.

All other members will receive issues electronically.

Alternatively, anyone may view/print issues by going online to www.dd-692.com and clicking on the "Reunion" tab.

This will help save the association's printing costs.

Each year (in the November-December and January-February issues), hard copies will be mailed to everyone reminding them that dues are due (except those who have renewal dates for several future years).

Membership Renewal Form

Due to changes in the structure of our organization shipmates need to be aware of whether or not they have renewed membership. Our membership year is based on a regular calendar year. If the year '17, 18 or greater or L, etc. after your name on the newsletter mailing label does not reflect the Reunion year, you need to renew your membership.

This form will indicate whether you need to renew your membership in the USS Allen M. Sumner Reunion Association.

For now, we will assume you have paid your 2016 dues.

If you cannot afford the \$15, send what you can (if anything) as we will not deny a shipmate membership because of a hardship. And no one else needs to know.

If you are a member in good standing, you should have a permanent plastic membership card.

This was issued to you when you became a member. If you do not have one, contact Pete Dromms, Reunion Association Treasurer at 301 Park Ln., North Syracuse, NY 13212-2143

Name_____	Spouse_____		
Address_____			
City_____	State_____	Zip_____	-_____
(A/C)_____	Primary Phone_____	Other Phone_____	Fax_____
E-Mail Address_____			
Years on Sumner - From_____		To_____	
Rate/Rank on Sumner_____			
Retired from Navy (Yes/No)_____			
Retired Rate or Rank_____			
Other info you wish to share _____			

Make Checks Payable to USS A.M. Sumner Association

Send to: USS A.M. Sumner Association, 301 Park Ln., North Syracuse, NY 13212-2143

REUNION ASSISTANCE FUND

Are YOU a former Sumner shipmate ?

Have YOU ever wanted to go to one of our Annual Reunions ?

For those shipmates who are in need of financial assistance, the Association has created a Special Committee to help YOU out. The funds available come from donations of the Sumner crew in the hope YOU will join us.

The Fund is managed in strict confidentiality and no one other than the Committee will ever know of these transactions.

If interested and to find out more about the Fund, please contact one of the following Committee Members:

Dave Robson DAVE@DD-692.com
(904) 287-7854

Jose Garcia JOSE@DD-692.com
(305) 431-3027

Dale Sutber DALE@DD-692.com
(727) 480-3646

To donate to the Fund and assist your shipmates, make your contributions (any amount is greatly appreciated) by check and send to:

USS AM Sumner Reunion Association
301 Park Ln.

North Syracuse, NY 13212-2143

Mark the check and/or envelope "for the Reunion Assistance Fund"

Reserve Reunion Rooms

Seems like there is always a reason to book hotel rooms as soon as possible and this year is no exception.

Last year it was the Republican National Convention. This year it's a major golf tournament.

The actual stated cutoff to guarantee rooms for us is April 1 and while a credit card is need to book rooms, it won't be charged until closer to the reunion.

Our special room rate is \$94 per night plus state

and local taxes. These rates are good for the nights from May 4 to May 13.

The Hampton Inn & Suites located by the Jacksonville Airport offers free shuttle service to/from the hotel, after you get your luggage go outside to Pole 6. Once contacted, the shuttle should show up in 5 to 7 minutes.

Just call (904)741-4001. and they will come get you.

Amenities offered by the hotel include free parking, a free hot breakfast and free high-speed internet access in every room.

Event Itinerary

Sunday (May 7) 2 p.m. Hospitality Suite opens, Registration, Bar opens, Silent Auction begins

Monday (May 8) TBD Memorial Service

What to wear

Be patriotic and casual (no high heels)

6:30 p.m. - Annual Banquet, Speaker and Music

What to wear - Men Dress Blues
or "office casual"*

Yes! Both memorial service and banquet are held on Monday this time.

Tuesday (May 9) 9 a.m.

Annual Business

Meeting

Wednesday May 10 - Farewell Breakfast

* **Office casual dress** typically includes slacks or khakis, dress shirt or blouse, open-collar or polo shirt, optional tie or seasonal sport coat, a dress or skirt at knee-length or below, a tailored blazer, knit shirt or sweater, and loafers or dress shoes that cover all or most of the foot.

USS ALLEN M. SUMNER- 29th Annual Reunion
REGISTRATION FORM

Jacksonville, FL 07-10 May, 2017 (Sunday-Wednesday)

*Print names as they are to appear on Nametags!

Name _____ Never had one? _____

Spouse or guest _____ Never had one? _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

E-mail _____

Served on Sumner from _____ to _____

Rate or Rank on Sumner _____

No. Of people attending reunion. _____ x \$140= _____
2017 (or more) Dues (specify year(s)) _____ + \$15@ _____

Total _____

I plan on attending the Farewell Breakfast.....Yes _____ No _____
(We need a head count for financial purposes)

Checks made out to: USS A. M. Sumner Association
Mail to: 301 Park Ln.
North Syracuse, NY 13212-2143

Questions?? Call Frank DiBello @ 281-332-1157
* Food allergies or special dietary REQUIREMENTS?
List here _____

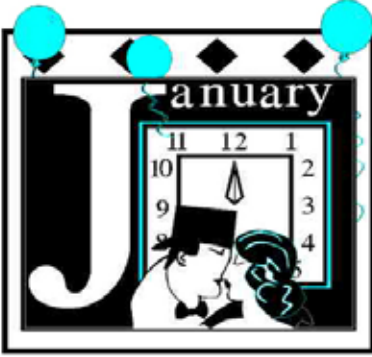
USS ALLEN M. SUMNER SHIP STORE ORDER INVOICE

Qtn.	Description	Price
	Sumner Ball Cap (Blue w/gold embroidery) - Specify All Cloth or 1/2 Mesh)	\$15.00
	Scrambled Egg patches <u>for Officers only</u> /with hat purchase	Free
	White Golf Shirt Embroidered w/Ship Patch (Circle Size - S, M, L, XL) Add \$10 for 2XL/3XL	\$25.00
	White T-Shirt w/Ship on Front (Circle Size - S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL)	\$20.00
	All Sweatshirts Circle Size - S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL	\$25.00
	Sumner Ship's Patch (Specify Sui Generis or Woody Woodpecker)	\$ 5.00
	Sumner Hat/Lapel/Tie Tac Pin	\$ 6.00
	Sumner License Plate bracket/holder	\$ 5.00
	Homemade Reunion 2000 Video (CNO Visit) DVD or VHS Specify which	\$ 8.00
	Zippo Ziplite battery pack (Flashlight Replacement for Unused Lighter	\$ 2.50
	Sumner Commemorative Challenge Coin (Approximately 1½ inches in diameter)	\$10.00
	US Navy Tabletop Drink Coasters (6 for \$20.00)	\$ 5.00
	Handkerchief (US Navy or 692)	\$ 5.00
	Navy Pin for wives	\$ 5.00
	Sumner shaving/toilet kit bag	\$10.00
	US Navy rear window stickers (or Retired) Specify which	\$ 5.00
	MIA/POW money clip	\$ 6.00
	Petty Officer window sticker	\$ 1.00
	USS Cooper (Dive to)/Return to Ormoc Bay (Battle of) DVD (Runtime: 80 minutes)	\$ 8.00
Total Enclosed		

All Sumner Assn members may deduct 10% from order (before shipping charges are added unless is designated "No Discount." Please add the following shipping charges; Merchandise up to \$20 - Add \$3 \$21-\$50 - Add \$5 \$51 and Up - Add \$7. Checks made payable to Sumner Reunion Association.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 (A/C) _____ PH # _____ E-Mail _____

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If you are going to change your e-mail address, or no longer wish to receive the newsletter, let the editor know.



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