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Newsletter for April 2018

Website: MOWWVANDENBERG.ORG

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Chapter Luncheon

The guest speaker for our April 18, Luncheon
Mr. John Lindsey, PG&E Meteorologist,
TRACKING CHAOS FOR A LIVING

Sitting at his desk inside Pacific Gas & Electric Co.'s Energy Education Center in Avila Valley, John Lindsey laughs easily about his job being one of the few where an individual can be incorrect and stay employed. "It's the only job I know where you can be totally wrong and still keep your job," Lindsey says with a big smile about his role as PG&E Corporate Relations Representative & Marine Meteorologist. "It's hard, very difficult to predict (the weather)," he adds. "I mean sometimes you are pulling your hair out. Every morning you get up and it could be different." Lindsey began forecasting weather at PG&E's Diablo Canyon Power Plant in 1992 after responding to a job posting at Cal Poly's Career Center. The Santa Rosa native was attending school at the university at the time, having earned a degree in electronics at Santa Rosa Junior College following a four-year stint in the United States Navy. Lindsey transitioned to PG&E in 2003. Although his entire career has been spent working at Diablo Canyon forecasting local weather and marine conditions, his weather forecast is seen by more than 7,300 individuals who subscribe to his daily predictions that are emailed to everyone on the list.

Please RSVP to Jim Murphy
805-528-7565 or jlmurphy@calpoly.edu.
or Lou Stout 805-994-7051 or louisstout35@gmail.com.

Commander'S Message: LTC Louis Stout, USA (Ret)

Our field trip to Camp San Luis Obispo was considered a success by those able to attend. Some members chose not to cross the grade because of the rain. They missed an excellent and cost effective lunch followed by a very informative briefing at the "Camp Dining Facility" (CDF) by LTC Ortiz, the Camp Commander. The weather cleared for our bus tour and we were able to see the many ranges and understand the wide variety of activities by the many tenants who use the camp. Thank you LTC Ortiz.

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Dan Speaking



During May, our chapter will be recognizing and presenting achievement awards to selected ROTC cadets. Provided is an excerpt from an article that was in the "Cal Poly Report" on March 14, 2018.

Cal Poly ROTC's Class of 2017-18 is Among the Top Programs in the Nation

Cal Poly's Army Reserve Officer Training Corps' class of 2017-18 one of the largest in the university's recent history -- is among the top student groups in the nation. "We had the fourth-highest average cadet order of merit scores among 281 U.S. colleges and universities across the country that have ROTC programs," said Capt. Dominic Senteno, and Assistant Professor of Military Science in the university's military science and leadership department. "That also includes senior military colleges such as Texas A&M, Virginia Military Institute and Valley Forge Military Academy and College. "We have not been fourth in the nation before. The fact that the average of this entire graduation class is that high -- one of the highest performances that we have ever had -- shows that this graduating class is exceptional."

The group of two women and 12 men is also one of the largest. While Cal Poly's ROTC program attract between 65 and 70 cadets a year from all six colleges, typically only eight to 10 graduate annually and are commissioned as second lieutenants. The order of merit score is based on leadership skills, physical fitness tests and cumulative grade point average, and this assessment plays a key role in where they start their military careers. All 14 students receiving commissions this academic year received the component choice in the Army they desired. Nine chose active duty assignments, four are bound for the National Guard and one selected the Army reserve, Senteno said. Six of the cadets were designated as Distinguished Military Graduates, individuals who rank in the top 20 percent of some 6,000 Army ROTC graduates nationwide.

Connor Flora, 22, and architectural engineering major from Seattle, said the esprit de corps among cadets contributed to Cal Poly earning the national OMS ranking.

Classmate Nathan Dagley, 22, an anthropology and geography major from Aliso Viego, was proud of his peers' efforts and of the lifelong bonds he forged.

The Army's ROTC program celebrated its centennial in 2016. As full-time college students, ROTC cadets simultaneously pursue a bachelor's degree while taking military science classes and participation in field exercises and labs that prepare them to become officers in the U.S. Army.

Cal Poly launched a voluntary Reserve Officers' Training Corps program in the fall of 1952 during the Korean War. The first class of ROTC officers was commissioned in 1955; more than 1,300 officers have been commissioned over the ensuing 63 years.

Capt. Dominic Senteno (left), an assistant professor of military science in the university's military science and leadership department chats with cadets Nathan Dagley (center), 22 an Anthropology and Geography major from Aliso Viejo, CA and Connor Flora, 22, an Architectural engineering major from Seattle.

Photo by Jay Thompson, Cal Poly University Communications



Sr. Vice Commander: LT Ron Janney USNR (fmr).

OKINAWA, 1 APRIL 1945

We just recently had the occasion to celebrate Easter Sunday, which also happened to be April Fool's Day. In 1945, in the predawn hours of April 1---which was also Easter Sunday--- the US Tenth Army participated in the largest amphibious assault in the Pacific Theater during World War II. We commonly refer to this as D-Day on Okinawa, but in reality it was L-Day, since D-Day became used exclusively for the invasion of Europe on June 6, 1944. The Tenth Army consisted of four divisions of the Army and three divisions of the Marine Corps. The invasion operated under the code name of "OPERATION ICEBERG" and at first was met with no resistance from the Japanese, but later became an epic battle with staggering casualties on both sides. Total casualties on both sides were around 160,000. Nearly half of the population of 300,000 Okinawans died from combat, suicide or were missing.

In the book TYPHOON OF STEEL by James H. Belote and William M. Belote, a very comprehensive account of the last military campaign of World War II is related. Taken from the dust jacket on the back flap of the book is the following quote:

"TYPHOON OF STEEL tells the story of the Okinawa campaign from both sides, from the initial plans and preparations to the suicide of General Ushijima on June 22, 1945, when organized resistance ceased. It includes enthralling accounts of the last cruise and death of the *Yamato*, the largest battleship ever built, the triumphant ordeal of the carrier U.S.S. *Franklin*, the heroic fight for survival against kamikazes by the U.S. destroyers on picket duty offshore, the death of the beloved American correspondent Ernie Pyle, and the remarkable exploits of many individual G.I.'s, Marines, and Japanese in close-in-combat."

The battle for Okinawa also resulted in the death of the highest ranking U.S. officer killed in action in World War II, Tenth Army Commander Lieutenant General Simon Bolivar Buckner, and two of his commanders, Colonel Edwin T. May (38th Infantry) and Brigadier General Claudius M. Easley (96th Division). Many-well known Marine generals and Navy admirals participated in this campaign. My former neighbor served on a picket destroyer as a gunner on the fantail, and watched many kamikaze attacks on other ships, while his ship was never hit. He waved at one Japanese pilot, who waved back, and my neighbor attributes this to the pilot turning to attack another destroyer, and not his.

For any companions interested in reading about Okinawa, I will lend the book TYPHOON OF STEEL.

Ron Janney

Adjutant: MAJ Jim Murphy, USMC (Ret)

"OUR CHIEF WANT IN LIFE IS SOMEBODY WHO SHALL MAKE US DO WHAT WE CAN"

I came across these words of Emerson's many years ago. At that time they seemed to crystallize something I had always sensed but never fully grasped: The astonishing fact that we don't begin to live up to our potentialities so long as we are trying merely to please ourselves. In the years that have passed since I first read those words, I'm convinced of their validity.

All of us need someone who wants us to achieve, someone who expects the utmost from us, someone who gives us a reasons outside of ourselves to succeeding. It can be an inspiring teacher, a loved parent, a wife, or a boss who gets the best from us because he expects it.

Selfishness, Emerson seems to be saying, will carry us so far but no farther. There must be somebody who cares whether or not we go farther still. Somebody to work for, live for, sometimes even to die for.

You can argue that improved performance comes only because human vanity craves an audience, but I think it goes much deeper. I think we respond to this outside challenge mainly because it establishes contact---warm,

tangible contact—with another human being. And that contact banishes the most paralyzing fear of fears: The fear of loneliness.

I believe Emerson thought so too. Read him one sentence farther: “Our chief want in life” he wrote, “is somebody who shall make us do what we can.” And then he added, “This is the service of a friend.”

Sergeant-At-Arms Remarks: MAJ Jim Murphy, USMC (Ret)

Look for More Troubles

I found these words some time ago and when I held positions of leadership and authority, I shared these with my subordinates. While they are intended to address a real working environment, I have found them valid in just about every endeavor of our daily lives. I hope you agree!

Be thankful for the troubles of your job. They provide about half your income. (And the rewards of whatever you are tasked to perform.) Because if it were not for the things that go wrong, the difficult people you have to deal with, and the problems and unpleasantnesses of your daily encounters, someone else could be found to handle your job for half of what you are being paid. (In our present environment our rewards don't manifest in dollars in our pocket but the real sense of accomplishing tasks of worth and the personal satisfaction we realize from “a job well done.”)

It takes intelligence, resourcefulness, patience, tact and courage to meet the troubles of any assignment. That's why you have been charged, by your willingness to come forward to accept the challenge. (If I were in a paying position, I would state to that subordinate that this is why you hold your present job, and may be the reason you aren't holding down an even bigger one!)

If all of us would start looking for more troubles, and learn to handle them cheerfully and with good judgment, as opportunities rather than irritations, we would find not only ourselves getting ahead at a surprising rate, but that our organization will also succeed. It is a fact that there are plenty of opportunities for waiting men and women who aren't afraid to face the troubles connected with them.

In today's world we aren't left or right; we should be pragmatic: See a problem and seek the solution. jcl5@pge.comjcl5@pge.com

Chaplains Corner

In the Christian life there are two very important dates: Christmas, the birth of our Lord Jesus, and Easter. I find it very interesting that after Jesus was born the son of a carpenter, and worked in his early years learning that trade, it was about thirty years later that when he came out of the river Jordan having been baptized by his cousin John, that his real ministry began. There were times when as a lad Jesus challenged the hierarchy, but these, while significant, are relatively minor events, such as when he debated the elders on the Torah.

On March 25, last, Christians celebrated Palm Sunday, to honor Jesus' returning to Jerusalem. His ministry was nearing its end. He knew this and stated this to his disciples more than once. The story of that return when the people came before him and scattered their coats and palm branches before him as he rode on a borrowed colt. It was shortly after his arrival that he was betrayed by Judas. We have heard that story many times, ending with Judas killing himself and scattering the twenty pieces of silver he had been paid for his betrayal. Then there was the trial ending with the sentence of crucifixion. Such a death, while common, is an extremely painful way to die. When that moment of Jesus' death came, the sky darkened and the curtains in the temple were torn! A Roman centurion was asked if Jesus was dead, and he pierced his side with his lance; the body fluids poured out from his chest cavity. Joseph was given permission to take the body and he did and laid him in a tomb carved out of rock. In three days, family came to treat the body only to be told by an angel “Why do you seek the dead among the living?” Jesus, as he had stated, arose from the dead!

I will continue this narrative next time.

GEN Hoyt S. Vandenberg Chapter

Military Order of World Wars

Executive Committee

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Shell Beach, CA 93449

Address correction requested

Mark Your Calendar

Wed.April 11th - MOWW EXCOM

Frid.April 13th - MOAA Luncheon

Wed.April 18th - MOWW Luncheon

Tues.May 1st - MOAA EXCOM

Wed.May 9th - MOWW EXCOM

Fri.May 11th - MOAA Luncheon

Wed.May 16th - MOWW Luncheon

MOWW Preamble

To cherish the memories and associations of the World Wars waged for humanity;

To inculcate and stimulate love of our country and flag;

To promote and further patriotic education in our nation;

Ever to maintain law and order, and to defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our national government and the Constitution of the United States;

To foster fraternal relations among all branches of the armed forces;

To promote the cultivation of military, naval, and air science and the adoption of a consistent and suitable policy of national security for the United States of America;

To acquire and preserve records of individual services;

To encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations and the establishment of memorials of the World Wars; and

To transmit all these ideals to posterity; under God and for our country, we unite to establish ...

The Military Order of the World Wars.