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Newsletter for December 2017

Website: MOWVANDENBERG.ORG

MOWW Annual Holiday Program – Dec. 20, 2017

Officers & Staff 2017-2018

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MAJ Ernest B. Miller, MD USA (fmr)

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MAJ Dan Dow, USAR

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE
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(ret), COL Loren Weeks, USA (Ret)

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We are pleased to announce that this year's annual Christmas Program will, for the first time, be held at the Camp San Luis Obispo newly renovated Officers Club. *The New Life Trio* will provide the entertainment with lively music, traditional songs and Christmas carols. Companions and attending MOAA members are urged to invite family and friends and to make reservations as early as possible. The event takes place on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 starting at 11:30 am with a social meet and greet and lunch and entertainment at 12:15 pm to around 14:00 pm. Since this is a festive event, we are encouraging all military to wear their Dress Mess or Class A uniform. Otherwise suit with tie. Of course the ladies will know their appropriate wear.

Reservations must be made NLT COB Monday Dec. 11th by contacting:

**Major Jim Murphy at 805-528-7565 or
jlmurphy@calpoly.edu
LTC Lou Stout 805-994-7051 home 925-570-4093 mobile or
louisstout35@gmail.com
For MOAA Members contact: Richard Ennes 805-610-3120 or
Ken Chapman 805-489-8214**

The cost is \$20 per person payable by check or cash at the door (no credit cards). The menu will be tri tip with all the trimmings or vegetarian by special request. A no host bar will be available with beer and wine.

Directions to Camp San Luis Obispo are written below and shown on 5th page or flyer attached
Directions from 101 Freeway to Camp San Luis Obispo. CSLO is about 5 miles north of freeway off ramps on Hwy 101. **From South or San Luis Obispo** - From US 101 N. take Exit 203B, curve right from Toro Street onto Walnut Street, continue toward Highway 1 (CA-1 N) Morro Bay/Hearst Castle, continue on to Mantalban, turn right onto Santa Rosa (Highway 1), and proceed north toward Morro Bay; you will pass Foothill Blvd., and then Highland, continue north on Highway 1. **From North or Paso Robles** - From US 101 S., take exit 203B, follow signs toward Highway 1 (CA-1 N) Morro Bay/Hearst Castle: continue on to Mantalban, turn right onto Santa Rosa (Highway 1), proceed north toward Morro Bay; you will pass Foothill Blvd., and Highland; continue north on Highway 1 (CA-1 N). **Continue with directions below.**

From the intersection of Santa Rosa (Highway 1) and Foothill, the entrance to Camp San Luis Obispo is approximately 4.3 miles. You will pass California Men's Colony on your right. You will pass Kansas Ave. (Sheriff's Department) on your left. When you see the sign "Camp San Luis Obispo 1/4 mi.", immediately watch for the left turn pocket. Yield to oncoming traffic and turn in at the uppermost end of the median divider. You will see the guard station at the

entrance. Front Gate to the Officer's Club/Temple Center: Turn immediate left on San Joaquin, drive to the end of the street and turn left onto Kern, continue under the highway then turn left on Napa (or Santa Clara if you pass Napa); the Temple Center/Officer's Club is on the left at the end of Napa/Santa Clara. **Note, you will need to present your military or government ID or a current drivers license.**



LTC AI Fonzi, MOWW Presentation



LTC Stout presenting speaker Recognition Certificates to LTC AI Fonzi

The guest speaker for our November 25th luncheon was LTC AI Fonzi, USA (Ret). AI brings more than 30 years of experience with the intelligence community worldwide. He had a number of Power Point slides although, because of time limitations, he was not able to go into depth on many. Much of his time was spent pointing out the sad state of our military and our inability to defend ourselves or respond to any adversary particularly with multiple threats. He covered wide geographical issues of concern to the United States from China, Afghanistan and the Middle East. In summary, he offered serious negative points with little in positive solutions. Bottom line is that our military services are suffering and are at a level of preparedness kin to prior WWII. With only three of ten of our youth legible to be accepted in the military, he suggested that we should consider reinstituting the draft. This talk was a real wake up call.

Following the meal, a business meeting was held to present the MOWW/MOAA initiative to combine the two organizations social activities. Those present approved pursuing this initiative starting with our respective Holiday Parties. This initiative is described under "Commanders Comments" below.

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

MOWW December 1, 2017 Commanders Message

Companions:

Over the past few months, the Vandenberg Chapter of the MOWW and the Central California Coast Chapter of the MOAA have been seeking ways to increase both chapter's efficiency, reach and membership,. Both Chapters have been steadily losing membership largely due to the aging of our members. Among the ideas we have been considering is initiating increased cooperation with other organizations with similar interests. At our Annual Chapter meeting in November, we presented the idea of sharing and or combining our social meeting gatherings. The motion to proceed received a vote of approval, to be effective immediately.

Although our two organizations have differing goals and objectives, on a social engagement basis, we will each be encouraged to join both organizations, and in all cases, the members of both organizations will be invited to participate in all social events and programs. The Executive Committee of each organization will meet separately to plan and manage their respective operations. Each Chapter's Monthly Newsletter will now include information on our Chapter and MOAA's local events. The monthly newsletters and other notices will be sent to the Members of both organizations.

As an initial action, all MOWW members have been invited to the MOAA Christmas party is on December 8th at the Madonna Inn, with social hour starting at 1700. In turn, all MOAA members have are invited to this year's MOWW Christmas party being held at the Officers' Club at Camp SLO on December 20. Please see the party specifics and directions above.

Sr Vice Commander: Sr Vice Commander, Lt Ronald Janney USNR (fmr)

THE ARIZONA MEMORIAL

“For years after the Pearl Harbor attack, the burned-out hulk of the *Arizona* was a vivid reminder of that day, and ships of the fleet have been the unofficial practice of rendering honors—saluting the wreck---as other ships had done when she was in commission. On 7 March 1950 Admiral Arthur W. Radford, Commander of the Pacific Fleet, issued an official order: ” From today on the *USS Arizona* will again fly our country’s flag . . . Several years later the Commandant of the Fourteenth Naval District invited the Pacific War Memorial Commission to sponsor a program to obtain a suitable memorial for the ship, and as a result, on 15 March 1958 the 85th Congress authorized the construction of such a memorial.

The result is undoubtedly one of the most impressive structures ever erected as a memorial. Designed by Alfred Preis, it is in the form of an enclosed bridge, 184 feet long, 36 feet wide, and 21 feet high at the ends, which tapers to 27 feet wide, and 14 feet at the center. It sits on pilings driven into the harbor bottom; no part of it touches the hulk of the *Arizona* which can be seen just below the surface of the water. The most notable feature of the memorial is the shrine room, where a wall of Italian marble is inscribed with the names of the men who died when the ship was destroyed. The oldest relic in the memorial is the bell that the *Arizona* mounted when she was commissioned on 17 October 1916.

Since the formal dedication of the memorial---where the U.S. flag flies every day---millions of people from the United States and Japan have visited there, arriving for various reasons and departing with various emotions. The visitors for whom the memorial has the deepest meaning still proudly call themselves *Arizona* sailors; they are the men who were there on 7 December 1941 and who return to read the names of other *Arizona* sailors who are still there.”

The above information is from page 44 of Leewards Publications/SHIPS DATA---USS Arizona (BB 39). It was written in 1978, and obviously refers to the survivors who would visit the ship then. There were 1177 men killed on the ship and whose names are inscribed on the marble wall in the shrine room. My entry for the September 2017 Newsletter was entitled “*All the Gallant Men*” and is the memoir of a survivor of the attack on the *USS Arizona*. The book is an engrossing story of one of the few who survived that “date which will live in infamy”.
Ron Janney

ADJUTANT MAJ Jim Murphy, USMC (Ret)

Dues! A matter of interest to us all, I’m sure, but a confusing one at the same time. Many members of MOWW pay dues twice: Once a year to National, and that fee is \$40.00. Those who are Perpetual members have paid once. Perpetual members are also relieved of paying local dues. Local chapter dues are \$15 a year, and technically this payment is due on the anniversary of the member’s joining the organization. Obviously the administration of tracking our members to offer reminders of that joining date is a challenge! What is being suggested is one of two options: When you are notified that your National dues are due (!) then so are your local dues do (!). Another option that I recommend you consider is to think of your chapter dues to be an annual matter, and pay that \$15 at or near the first of the year. Some Perpetual members understand all of this but still want to support the chapter by something other than buying a raffle ticket. So I know our treasurer Bonnie Harris would be more than happy to accept your financial offerings!

Chaplains Corner

While it is reported that Christianity is the largest in population (estimated about 2 billion souls worldwide), the number of Christian sects is significant. The numbers are significant: I do not intend to negate any, but only mention a few to demonstrate the wide range of specific ideologies all in the name of Christianity. Certainly Roman Catholics make up probably the greatest numbers; followed by those following the Anglican (in the United States, Episcopalians), then at least two or more Baptist sects. In my small town of Ojai, growing up, there were Baptists, Methodists, Four Square, Holy Pilgrim, and many one or two more, I can’t recall. Locally, there are Presbyterians, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Grace Church, Church of Christ, Unitarian, and still more.

What is important is they all have one thing in common: The faith and belief in our Lord Jesus Christ. We are ending one church year and beginning a new one. While it is known and accepted that we honor and celebrate Jesus ‘ birth on December 25 of each year, there is virtually no way to officially verify this event occurring on that date, regardless of which calendar one uses. So we accept certain events and tied to dates, and this is necessary for us to maintain some level of sanity!

I have studied many of the world’s religions so I have a smattering of knowledge of everything from Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism to Zoroastrianism. I have concluded that some advocate agape love, others not so.

I was at the post office the other day and said “Merry Christmas” to someone. Another person there spoke up and said, “There are other religions, so it should be “Happy Holidays”. I said they can say whatever they want; I want to say “Merry Christmas”. I wonder if some who are not of the Christian faith go to work on December 25th, or believe they deserve the day off as well.

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

(continued from November newsletter) My, how times have changed! But not as much as some might think. Moving military, troops, equipment and all such logistics from one site to another (read: From one land site to another, safe to hostile) created an engineer-type organization. Naval doctrine developed the following definition: “Shore Party is a task organization of the landing force, formed and equipped to expedite the movement of troops, equipment and supplies across the landing beaches. . . .”

Keep in mind that this concept is valid regardless of the specific method of troop movement: Landing craft and amphibious ships, hover craft, or by helicopter. It is now clear that we have developed/invented some very sophisticated equipment for this sole purpose.

A “task organization” means that the organization is specific, and formed for the special operation for which it is formed; it is not a standard Table of Organization, although it does have a core organization. What are the needs? Develop and bring together elements to accomplish the mission.

“Of the landing force” separates the naval component from the landing force. There is a fine line during an amphibious operation when the Naval commander is in charge. At some point as the operation is underway, and the operation on land seems to be stabilized, the landing force commander (I am not identifying Marine or Army) considers that control can and should be shifted. At this point, authority of all activities on land is assumed by the land commander. The Navy, at this point, takes on a supporting role. (Kind of complicated, such as air and fire support, and back up logistics and others.)

Navy element is known as Beachmaster and is subordinate to the landing force commander. This unit is a component of the Shore Party and is primarily responsible to signal and control the specific movement of landing. We often see movies of a navy type running up and down the Beach as if he were in charge. He is in the Navy, and his element is known as Beachmaster, and is subordinate to the Shore Party Commander. As noted the naval component of the Shore Party is primarily responsible for marking the beaches and signaling and controlling the landing of whatever craft as they approach the beach. As the beach becomes consolidated, a number of activities are taking place. Again, depending on the mission, fuel units can be developed to bring petroleum to the landing force. If the off shore beach slope is slight, causeways may be brought in to allow ships to bring added supplies, troops and equipment ashore. The beach gets very confusing at about this time, as the supply points are being established. An interesting identification system was established to determine who should be on the beach. (There may have been troops who, by this time had been actively engaged with the enemy and figured they’d be safer back on the beach.) Shore Party personnel wore a small red patch on their ankles and on their covers (hats.) The navy component, beach masters, wore blue patches. So if someone was on the beach without an appropriate patch, they were immediately suspect! We used to joke that when the shit got up to our red patches, it was time for us to leave the beach! (Never happened!) I was one of few Marines that actually carried the MOS of Shore Party!

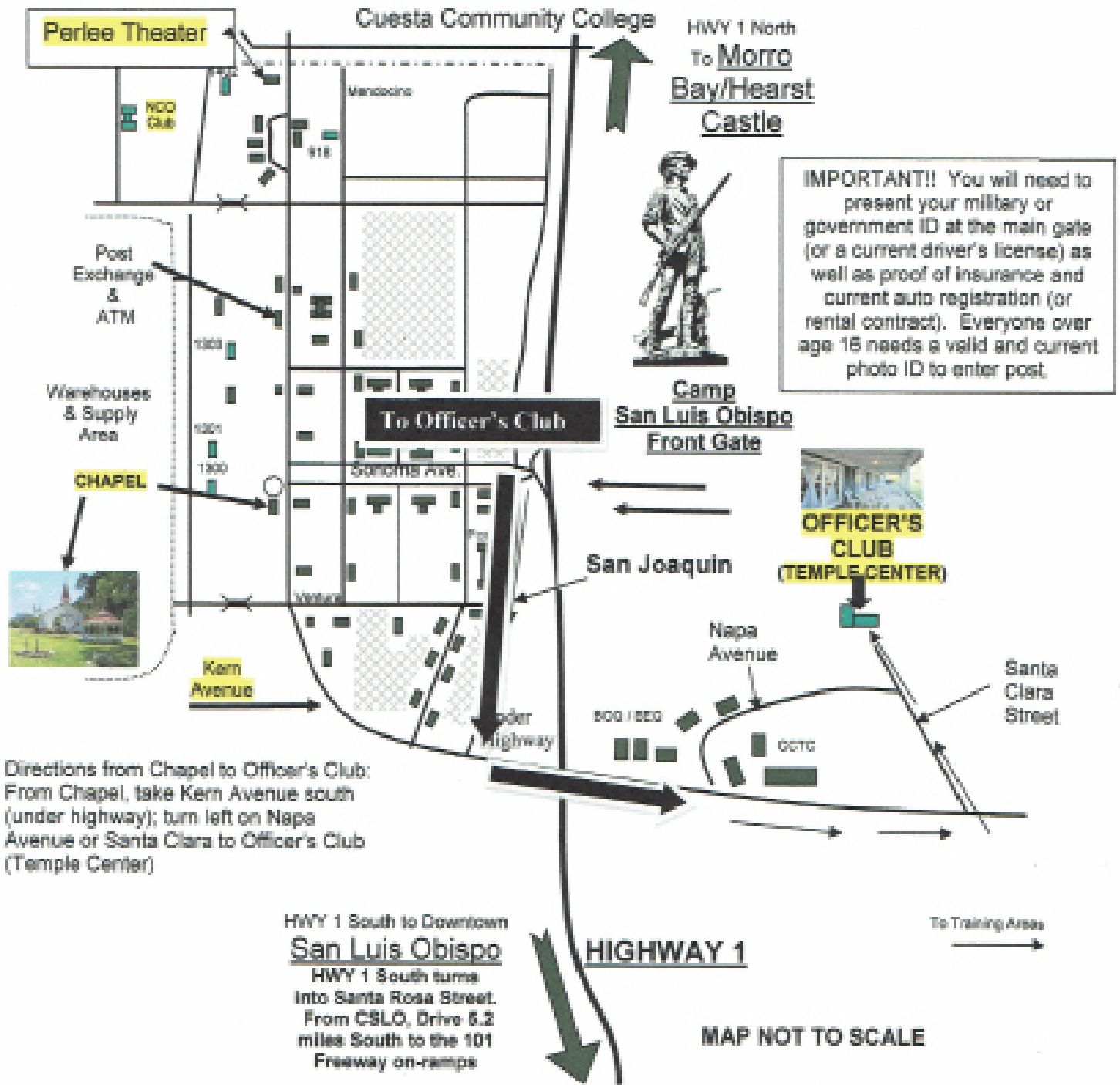
An off-shoot of the shore party is the Helicopter Support Team, or HST. HSTs perform similar support for vertical operations as the shore party but

in landing zones. Obviously they do not have a naval component! These operations are intended when such operations are planned to expand the occupation of hostile territory. In these situations, shortly after the first waves of helicopters have brought in the first ground troops, teams land and begin establishing logistical facilities for fuel, ammunitions, rations and other elements. HSTs were seldom used in Vietnam as the tactical situation on the ground was extremely fluid and it was seldom intended to expand and occupy the terrain. (Exceptions were, as an example, Ka San.)

We all know of the SeeBees, the navy’s construction units, but there is another CB: Amphibious Construction Battalions. ACBs perform many major activities related to amphibious operations: Historically they provided causeways and fuel, ship to shore and operate certain landing craft, such as the larger LCMs. Today they operate air cushion ship to shore vehicles, capable of carrying the largest items of equipment, and they don’t stop at the beach, but can continue in land on their air cushions.

Given that the second level of ships today are tied to and related to the concept of some phase or level of amphibious operations, we need to consider our global interests and our ability to move a military force relatively quickly, almost anywhere in the world. In many locations around the world we have prepositioned equipment and supplies that can be utilized on a very short notice. I personally witnessed some of these ships off the coast of Saipan. In every case the real support will come from the Navy ships. It must be acknowledged that nothing I have written is intended to minimize the role of our heavy lift aircraft to provide the backup support of delivering in a very timely manner, the necessary supplies, troops and equipment. The need to provide immediate logistical support for that initial incursion is as important now as ever before.

Directions to CSLO



Directions from Chapel to Officer's Club:
 From Chapel, take Kern Avenue south (under highway); turn left on Napa Avenue or Santa Clara to Officer's Club (Temple Center)

Written directions are on page 1 and 2 of this newsletter

GEN Hoyt S. Vandenberg Chapter

Military Order of World Wars

Executive Committee

108 Indio Drive

Shell Beach, CA 9349

Address correction requested

Mark Your Calendar

Christmas Party

December 20, 2017

11:30 am

EXCOM Mtg. Dec. 13th

9:30 am, Elks Club

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.