

National Association of Naval Photography

NANP News Spring 2014



Photojournalism for the Fleet

President's Message

By John White

Shootoff Schedule
For 2014

President's Message January 2014

Greetings to all my friends and shipmates in this the 100th anniversary of Naval Photography.

First, I would like to express to you how lucky I feel to be able to serve as the President of the National Association of Naval Photographers. As your President, I will make two promises to each and every one of you. First, I will always strive to do my best in every endeavor. Secondly, I will always aspire to keep the best interests of the organization as a whole my primary motivator. I have big shoes to fill for I believe Todd did an exceptional job in his term as your President. I sincerely appreciate that he has agreed to continue serving in a major role in the organization. Although the voting turnout was low, we have elected great members who have agreed to serve on the Board of Directors. Rich "Easy" Ezzell has agreed to serve as 1st Vice President, Jerry Billings as 2nd Vice President, Todd Beveridge as Secretary, Toni McCreash as Treasurer and John Hudson as a Director. I am sincerely happy to have such dedicated individuals with me on the Board.

I spent over 28 years in the Navy and from day one I wanted to be a Photographer's Mate. 2014 marks my 20th year of retirement from active duty but it seems like only yesterday I stood tall at my first muster at PH "A" School. I was never disappointed in my assignments and to this day, I treasure the shipmates I served with and the friends I made through the rating. I can only hope that our successors, the Mass Com-



Walter Richardson,
Kodak Aerial Camera



John White
President 2014-15

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Presidents Message cont.

munications Specialists of today, will look to our legacy and build the same pride of service in the very special community we have built for them.

I attended our last reunion in the D.C. area and was extremely happy to see the turn out we achieved from the active duty community. At the dinner, I was lucky enough to be seated at the same table as Admiral Kirby. I can assure you that he is a staunch supporter of our association and that he wants to see an increase in our active duty membership. I promised him that I would do everything necessary to increase the Mass Communication Specialist membership. It is one of my primary goals for my term. My second goal is to increase the membership of those Photographer's Mates who served but did not spend a career in the Navy. The Chiefs, Warrant Officers and Limited Duty Officers are active supporters of the Association but it is the enlisted Photographer's Mates who were called upon to be at the "tip of the spear" and provide the photographic coverage of everything from a simple cake cutting to documenting battle scenes from World War II to the current war on terrorism. We all know and keep in touch with shipmates who got out after one or two hitches in the Navy. If each one of us reached out to them and got a couple to join, they would spread the word and our membership would grow infinitely. I am asking each of you to do just that, reach out to your shipmates, explain the association to them and how much it means to you. I believe we will find more than a few who have fond memories of their service as a Photographer's Mate and aren't even aware the association exists.

2014 will be a very special year for us from the ceremonies recognizing our founder, LT Walter Richardson to our reunion in the birthplace of Naval Aviation, Pensacola in September. The naming of Building 1500 took place on the 17th of January, we had a good turnout from our community. We had a great turnout in DC and I sincerely hope that we will have super participation in this year's reunion in the home of Naval Photography.

In conclusion, we all know that survival of an organization depends on the commitment and participation of its members. I ask each and every one of you for your support and involvement. Come to the reunion, meet with old friends and shipmates and enjoy the camaraderie which results. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, ideas to strengthen and grow or association or to just talk. I'm here to serve.

Thanks to all.
John



Building 1500 dedicated to Walter L. Richardson

LIEUTENANT WALTER L. RICHARDSON



THE "FATHER OF NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHY" ENLISTED IN THE U.S. NAVY IN 1911 AND SERVED ABOARD USS MISSISSIPPI AS SHIP'S COOK 4TH CLASS WHEN IT ARRIVED AT PENSACOLA IN JANUARY 1914 TO ESTABLISH THE FIRST NAVAL AVIATION DETACHMENT. THE NAVY RECOGNIZED HIS TALENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS AS A PHOTO ENTHUSIAST FOR HIS DOCUMENTATION OF AVIATION TRAINING AND AIRCRAFT TESTING AND DESIGNATED HIM THE NAVY'S FIRST OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER. DEVELOPED THE NAVY'S AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY/RECONNAISSANCE MISSION AND TACTICS WITH FIRST NAVAL AVIATORS IN PENSACOLA. ORGANIZED THE FIRST NAVAL SCHOOL OF PHOTOGRAPHY. COMMISSIONED AND RECEIVED HIS "WINGS OF GOLD" IN 1918 AS NAVAL AVIATOR #582. DEVELOPED THE FIRST HANDHELD OBLIQUE CAMERA WITH EASTMAN KODAK. ESTABLISHED THE NAVY'S PHOTOGRAPHER'S MATE RATING. CREATED THE NAVY'S PHOTOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND ORGANIZED PHOTO LABS AND MANNING OF PHOTOGRAPHERS ABOARD SHIPS AND SHORE STATIONS WORLDWIDE. RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY IN 1922 BUT REMAINED WITH NAVAL RESERVE DOCUMENTING SUCH HISTORY MAKING EVENTS AS THE FIRST EXPERIMENTAL TAKEOFFS AND LANDINGS ABOARD THE NAVY'S FIRST AIRCRAFT CARRIER, USS LANGLEY (CV-10). CREWMEMBER AND SURVIVOR OF AIRSHIP USS SHENANDOAH (ZR-1) CRASH IN 1925. UPON DISCHARGE FROM THE U.S. NAVY IN 1926 HE BECAME HEAD OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION FOR THE BUREAU OF AERONAUTICS AND LATER SENIOR SCIENTIST AND PHOTOGRAPHIC INSPECTOR, BUREAU OF AERONAUTICS.



Photos by Art Giberson
MC1 Bruce Commins
MC2 Marcus Stanley
MCCS Tony Casullo supervisor



Walter L. Richardson Building Dedication Ceremony

Art Giberson

PENSACOLA, FL— In a gala dedication ceremony January 17, 2014 a familiar landmark aboard the Navy's oldest air station, NAS Pensacola, Florida, took on a new name to accompany its new mission as the Naval Air Station Headquarters building.

Built in 1939 as an Army barracks, building 1500 became the home of naval photography in 1950. For most of its nearly half a century in the former Army barracks, the school trained photographers for the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and occasionally Navy civilian photographers.

Judging by the praise for naval photography and the 100 or so retired and former navy photographers and attending the ceremony, naming their former school house the "Walter Leroy Richardson Building", it was easy to forget that the ceremony was actually the kick-off of a year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of naval aviation. In addition the navy photographers the crowd of around 300 gathered for the ceremony included members of the Richardson family.

Although the names of several naval photography pioneers were submitted for consideration, Lt. Walter Leroy Richardson, long considered the "Father of Father of Naval Photography," was the overwhelming choice.

Born in Princeton Depot, Massachusetts, on August 21, 1889, Richardson enlisted in the Navy on November 1, 1911 and was assigned to the battleship USS Mississippi as a Ship's Cook 4th Class. When the Mississippi steamed into Pensacola Bay on January 20, 1914 Richardson, an amateur photographer, snapped pictures of the debris-littered former navy shipyard. Richardson's skill with a camera soon came to the attention of the ship's captain, Commander Henry C. Mustin and Lt. John Towers who had been assigned the task of converting the old shipyard into the Navy's first Naval Aeronautic Station and Flying School, Richardson was assigned to photograph the cleanup operations, thus he became the Navy's first official photographer, despite the fact that the rating of photographer wasn't created until 1921.

The naming of Building, 1500 often referred to as the "Mecca of Naval Photography," as the Walter Leroy Richardson Building will forever serve as a reminder of the role Pensacola had in establishing the corps of sea service photographers who have roamed the world, at sea, in the air and on the ground recording Navy and Marine Corps activities.



(L-R) Andrew Bridgham (Great Grandson of WLR) Captain Keith Hoskins, USN
CO NAS Pensacola James Nalley (Grandson of WLR)



Richardson family at periscope room display



2014 NANP Shootoffs

By Johnny Bivera





The NANP News is a publication of the National Association of Naval Photography. It is published 3 or 4 times a year depending on how much information I can squeeze from the members. Please send me your news or photos for the newsletter.

Visit our web site www.navyphoto.net, then NANP Newsletter.

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NANP Convention September 25-28, 2014 Pensacola NANP Convension September 2015 San Diego

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